

Hafa Adai!

Suit by ex-owners of Victoria Hotel dismissed. **PAGE 2**

Court withdraws its acceptance of Gabayeron's guilty plea. **PAGE 3**

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## MVA office in Russia closed

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

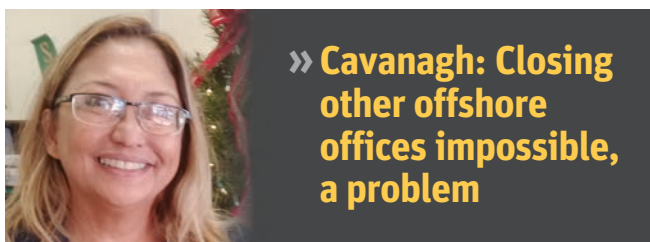
The offshore office of the Marianas Visitors Authority has already been closed for about two months now, largely due to the austerity measures being implemented government-wide.

MVA board vice chair Gloria Cavanagh disclosed this in an interview Monday, saying the MVA board of directors voted a couple of months ago to close the Russia off-

shore office.

Right now, there are only about 100 Russian tourists coming in, she said.

MVA wants to keep the Russia market alive because



» **Cavanagh: Closing other offshore offices impossible, a problem**

there are still a lot of repeat guests that are coming from that country, Cavanagh said, but they had to make some tough choices to save for the payroll of MVA employees.

Pacific Islands Club Saipan used to have a lot of Russian

guests, but there is no direct flight from Russia right now, said Cavanagh who is the PIC general manager.

She said the last direct flight was a charter back in August 2016.

See MVA on **Page 4**

## NMI eligible for more disaster aid

By **JON PEREZ**  
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REPORTER

The CNMI is eligible to receive more federal disaster funds, including from the U.S. Economic Development Administration and the U.S. Department of Education.

EDA officials are now in contact with their counterparts in the CNMI, since Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu struck the Com-

monwealth in September and October last year. EDA has identified 40 potential projects that they can help fund in the CNMI.

EDA helps in the timely delivery of federal assistance to support communities in their long-term recovery after being hit by major disasters.

The CNMI can get a share of the \$600 million in disaster relief funds from EDA, which

See AID on **Page 4**

## Man who killed landlord to plead guilty

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
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REPORTER

After over two years, the man accused of killing his landlord and injuring her husband in the process will plead guilty to the charges against him.

Alfonso Sebastian Parongan, 57, who is accused of killing his landlord over a rental dispute and stabbing her husband several times,

informed the Superior Court yesterday, through his lawyer, Jean Pierre Noguez of the Office of the Public Defender, that he now wants to change his initial "not guilty" plea to "guilty."

His decision to change his plea in the case was not explained in court.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho

See MAN on **Page 4**

## NMI Museum asks for consistent funding



NMI Museum director Daniel Aquino Jr., far right, shows legislators the proposed area of the coffee shop yesterday during the NMI Museum Stakeholder meeting.

MARC VENUS

By **MARC VENUS**  
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REPORTER

"We are not lobbying for increased funding. ...Just...a constant source of funding."

Thus argued NMI Museum director Daniel Aquino Jr. during a stakeholders' meeting with legislators yesterday at the NMI Museum of History and Culture.

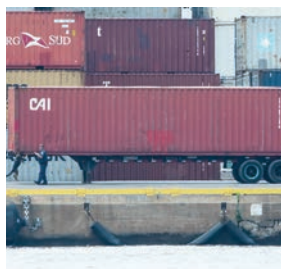
This comes against a backdrop of a proposed \$214,207 funding for the museum in fiscal year 2020. That is a steep drop from the museum's fiscal year 2019 budget

of \$462,984 and fiscal year 2018's budget of \$245,478.

Aquino fears that, without sustainable funding, the museum will not be able to

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## INSIDE



### NATION

U.S. authorities seized 33,000 pounds of cocaine from a ship at a Philadelphia port.

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### ASIA

Hong Kong pro-democracy lawmakers and activists reject a new apology by the city's leader.

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### LIFE & STYLE

A century-old tree that some believe was the inspiration in Dr. Seuss' "The Lorax" has fallen.

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## Local

## Suit by ex-owners of Victoria Hotel dismissed

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

Ruling that the case has already been decided by the federal court, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has dismissed the lawsuit filed by the former owners of Victoria Hotel in Garapan against a Guam bank, from whom they borrowed \$1.8 million to build the hotel and they are now accusing of having never obtained a license to do banking business in the CNMI.

In a 23-page decision last Friday, Camacho dismissed the lawsuit filed by Edward L.G. Lizama as personal representative of the estate of Jesus T. Lizama, Victoria L.G. Lizama, and J&JEV Enterprises Inc., based on the issue of preclusion because the plaintiffs' claims against ANZ Guam Inc. are based on the same three issues that were fully litigated and finally decided in the U.S. District Court for the NMI action.

ANZ Guam is formerly known as Citizens Security (Guam) Inc.

Camacho said the Lizamas have failed to state a claims

for relief based on an alleged violation of the Consumer Protection Act, the Commonwealth Debt Collection Act, and breach of contract warranting dismissal.

Camacho said the District Court's previous decision was final and on the merits.

According to court records, the plaintiffs sued ANZ Guam Inc. in the Superior Court last Aug. 22, alleging a violation of the Commonwealth Consumer Protection Act, wrongful foreclosure under the Commonwealth Debt Collection Act, and breach of contract.

In 1997, ANZ provided a \$1.8-million loan to plaintiffs and took a mortgage over real property in the CNMI to secure the debt—up to 70 percent of which was guaranteed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Plaintiffs defaulted on the loan. ANZ then sued the plaintiffs in June 2000 on a foreclosure proceeding in the Superior Court.

In January 2001, the Superior Court issued an amended default judgment against the plaintiffs in the amount of \$2.2 million.

In February 2013, the Su-

perior Court issued an order directing foreclosure sale of mortgaged property in the outstanding amount of \$2.1 million, which included principal, interest, and attorney's fees.

The Lizamas appealed the order, and the CNMI Supreme Court dismissed the appeal.

ANZ then scheduled a foreclosure sale of the property for March 21, 2016.

Less than two weeks prior to the scheduled sale, the Lizamas filed a lawsuit against ANZ in the District Court. ANZ postponed the scheduled foreclosure sale until further notice.

In their Superior Court lawsuit, plaintiffs, through counsel Juan T. Lizama, alleged that ANZ and its predecessor, Citizens Security Bank (Guam), never obtained a full-service banking license in the CNMI.

Plaintiffs alleged that when it executed the mortgage, and when it sought to foreclose on Jesus Lizama's properties in 2000, ANZ knew that it was not a licensed full-service bank in the CNMI.

Plaintiffs alleged that only full-service operating banks in

See **SUIT** on Page 4

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## Court withdraws its acceptance of Gabayeron's plea in rob case

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has withdrawn its acceptance of Artemia Gabayeron's guilty plea in charges related to robbing a poker arcade at knifepoint.

According to Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho yesterday, he withdrew his acceptance of Gabayeron's plea because the change of plea and sentencing memorandum did not specify exactly what the opposing parties agreed to.

Gabayeron had changed her plea on a charge of assault with a dangerous weapon from not guilty to guilty.

Camacho ordered Gabayeron to return to court on June 26 to continue the sentencing and resubmit her guilty plea.

Gabayeron, 51, is facing

multiple charges, including robbery, assault with a dangerous weapon, and disturbing the peace.

Gabayeron was allegedly caught on surveillance tape robbing the Royal Poker gaming arcade in Oleai last April 11. Gabayeron was reportedly seen entering the arcade and leaving after robbing the female cashier of \$649. She allegedly threatened her at knifepoint.

The suspect allegedly walked into the establishment between 6:30am and 6:45am after the security guard had left, called the cashier on a pretext of trying to get assistance, then forcing her way into the cashier's area and holding the cashier at knifepoint.

A short struggle occurred before the suspect was able to open the cash register and

grab a handful of cash valued at \$649. The suspect then fled the establishment, going south toward Oleai.

Gabayeron was apprehended two days later at her home.

Court information mentions that a human resource representative from a Susupe hotel where she worked helped police identify Gabayeron through photos from the surveillance footage, confirming that it was, in fact, Gabayeron and directed police to Gabayeron's residence in As Terlaje.

Aside from the identification by her employer, Gabayeron was also identified by the victim in a six-person lineup.

## US Labor provides over \$1 million disaster unemployment assistance

Over \$1 million in Disaster Unemployment Assistance have been paid to approved applicants by the U.S. Department of Labor through the CNMI Department of Labor as of June 8, 2019.

The DUA program provides payment relief and reemployment assistance to individuals who are unemployed as a direct result of a major disaster. DUA claims are only taken after the U.S. President, through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, declares specific areas of the CNMI as disaster areas and authorizes Individual Assistance to individuals working in the disaster areas.

DUA funding is provided by FEMA and does not come from employer payroll taxes. Individuals who applied and/or received DUA benefits must provide proof of identity and demonstrate their status as U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, or qualified aliens.

During the application period, more than 1,400 applications were submitted to CNMI DOL and the Disaster Unemployment Assistance office for review. Of that number, almost 800 were approved by the U.S. Department of Labor. A total of 3,300 weeks

were paid, and approved applicants received an average amount ranging from \$1,200 to \$2,400 each week.

"Disaster Unemployment Assistance was among the many priorities we requested for immediately after Super Typhoon Yutu. Important to our recovery is ensuring that we help those private sector employees who were displaced and those trying to find work or gainful employment. The road to recovery continues, and we're continuing to implement a comprehensive approach that gets us through these challenging times," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

"The DUA Program has provided monetary assistance to individuals, who had either lost their job, or had their work hours reduced, as a result of Super Typhoon Yutu's destruction of many businesses. A little over a million dollars was granted by the U.S. Department of Labor Employment Training and Administration, and we are grateful to DUA program coordinator Consuelo Hines and acting administrator John Bailey for their untiring assistance," said Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente. (PR)

## SCC seminar to teach basics of hiring

The Saipan Young Professionals of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a seminar that teaches the basics of hiring on June 20, from 6pm to 8pm, at the SCC office on the third floor of the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 315.

"Hiring 101" would feature Latte Built owner Derek Cutting and Access 670 Consult-

ing owner and lead consultant Polly Masga as guest speakers.

The seminar is free to SYP members and is \$35 for non-members. Light refreshments are included. Advanced registration is required.

For more information, contact Mercilynn K. Palec at (670) 234-7150 or email administrator@saipanchamber.com. (PR)

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## Tax proposed for gaming businesses on Saipan

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) has introduced a local bill that proposes that a 10 percent gambling revenue tax on all gambling establishments on Saipan, including the casino at the still-to-be finished Imperial Palace Saipan.

Sablan said that her bill, House Local Bill 21-23, is not singling out a particular establishment.

“The proposed legislation does not single out any one taxpayer, although...the big elephant in the room not paying [business gross revenue tax], or corporate income taxes for that matter, is [Imperial Pacific International],” she said.

Other gaming establishments on the island are Club C, Club 88, and Saipan Vegas, in addition to the casino and hundreds of poker arcades.

The bill has yet to be assigned to a committee.

Sablan said any bills introduced has to sit on the House

calendar for three legislative days before it gets officially transmitted to the local delegation for review and action.

Sablan said her bill emulates Rota and Tinian, which have their own taxes on gaming revenue.

“The other senatorial districts have gambling revenue taxes. Everywhere else in the rest of the world where there is gambling, there is a gambling revenue tax. We are proposing to do the same [on Saipan], to apply a gambling revenue tax to all gaming businesses, including but not limited to the exclusive casino licensee,” she said.

She pointed out that the local delegation is authorized to impose gambling revenue taxes on top of any other Commonwealth taxes that a gaming establishment is required to pay.

Sablan pointed out that her proposed legislation is relatively conservative. “Meaning [it’s] too generous to the industry. Some do not agree

with the proposal to permit a nonrefundable tax credit for the licenses that gaming establishments currently pay.

“And some believe the tax should be assessed on gross, not net, gaming revenue. I

do think these perspectives should be considered further in committee.”

Sablan said it is known that IPI has barely paid any BGRT for fiscal year 2019. “They [IPI] also owe tens of millions in corporate income taxes and community benefit fund dis-

tributions for previous fiscal years, according to the audited financial statements.”

She questioned what other business establishments in the CNMI get away with. “These are clear breaches of the exclusive casino license agreement and the responsibility falls squarely on the governor and his [CNMI] Lottery Commission to hold IPI to their prom-

ises and impose penalties.”

“[Penalties] including suspension of the license until they comply and pay all their taxes and obligations. The governor’s Lottery Commission has given IPI virtually every concession they have asked for. Perhaps it’s time to revisit that agreement and renegotiate more favorable terms for the Commonwealth.”



### REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

U.S. Marine Brig. Gen. Sean M. Salene reads the names of fallen Marines during the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Saipan wreath laying ceremony last June 15, 2019, at the American Memorial Park on Saipan. The anniversary was an opportunity to reflect on the service and sacrifice of the millions of brave service members who fought in the Pacific theater. Saipan was a battle of the Pacific campaign of World War II, fought on the island of Saipan in the Mariana Islands from June 15 to July 9, 1944. Salene is the assistant wing commander of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

U.S. MARINE CORPS/LANCE CPL. MADELINE JONES

## MVA

From Page 1

“That’s it. So they come through China [or] Korea to get here,” Cavanagh said.

It was only last September, when then-MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion stated that MVA feels the Russia market still holds potential for the CNMI’s tourism industry because East Russia is very close to the CNMI.

Concepcion said Russian tourists can visit the CNMI visa-free, which is a huge selling point because the Commonwealth is the only part of the United States that allows Russians to come without a visa.

Russians are known for staying for long periods and spending the highest per capita among the CNMI’s tourism markets.

According to the MVA yesterday, citing the May visitor arrival numbers, Korea retains

its position as the top-performing source market for the CNMI. China and Japan arrivals follow. Last year, MVA reported that the remaining markets such as Russia make up only 7 percent of visitors.

With respect to MVA’s offshore offices in China, Korea, Japan, and Taiwan, Cavanagh said that closing those offices is impossible and would create a problem for the CNMI.

“Once you close the offshore marketing and once you

stop marketing the destination, then you leave it, it’s going to cost 10 times more to try to even get it back,” Cavanagh said.

She said the answer to the lack of revenues is actually for the CNMI to do more promotion and not less.

She recently disclosed that MVA owes its offshore offices about \$1.7 million, as the Department of Finance has yet to remit \$4 million in hotel occupancy tax to the MVA.

## AID

From Page 1

was enacted from Public Law 116-20. EDA representatives are set to arrive this week to assist the CNMI with its plans and applications for the funds.

“It can be used for expenses related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, and infrastructure restoration. Grant awards and the speed with which the Marianas receives funding will depend on the quality of

the grant applications and how quickly the Commonwealth submits them,” said Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

Sablan added the U.S. Department of Education also has an additional \$4 million that will go to schools that are recovering from disasters.

The amended H.R. 2740—or the Fiscal Year 2020 Labor-Health-Education Appropriations Act, where Sablan is one of the co-sponsors—passed

the U.S. House of Representatives last week.

“The funds go to the Office of the Inspector General, the independent watchdog that conducts oversight, audits, and investigations of department spending,” Sablan said.

In other news, Sablan said individuals under the categorical or humanitarian parole status that were denied federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance can appeal their cases. “We alerted the U.S. Department of Labor to

the denials.”

“As a result, the Commonwealth Department of Labor is now accepting written appeals from individuals who may have been erroneously denied DUA. Qualified non-residents must have lived in the Marianas for at least one year,” he said.

The U.S. Labor Department office in Hawaii will resolve all appeals. For more information, call Sablan’s office on Saipan at 323-2647 or email kilili@mail.house.gov.

## MUSEUM

From Page 1

maintain its current condition and even worsen in five or more years.

He said that, if given enough funds, the museum plans to create upgrades such as a coffee shop and the proposed fixture of the underground bunker that will be used to attract more visitors. Aquino believes these upgrades can help generate funds that will help maintain the life of the museum.

Present at yesterday’s stakeholders’ meeting were House

Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan), vice speaker Lorenzo I. DLG (R-Saipan), floor leader Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (R-Saipan), Reps. Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan), Joel C. Camacho (R-Saipan), Richard T. Lizama (R-Saipan), Luis John DLG Castro (R-Saipan), and Joseph A. Flores (Ind-Saipan).

The museum is also experiencing a shortage of staff, with only three onsite workers; the museum plans to hire more staff if provided the funding.

In certain situations like performing a museum changeover, the NMI Museum has

to reach out and collaborate with agencies such as the Marianas Visitors Authority, Aquino said.

Meanwhile, the museum also receives donations through sponsors that are used for museum upgrades.

According to Aquino, the current goal of the museum is to build local interest and let younger generations know that the museum is always there. In order to do that, they will need proper funding. He also thanked the CNMI Legislature for being aware of the issues surrounding the museum’s inadequate funding.

A solution for this issue is being eyed through House Bill 21-52, introduced by vice speaker Lorenzo I. DLG (R-Saipan). This bill will allocate 20 percent of the Beverage Container Tax to fund the operations of the NMI Museum.

Attao was impressed with the museum’s new improvements and hopes that it will be able to sustain the effort.

H.B. 21-52 was pre-filed last May 17. The projected 20 percent of the Beverage Container Tax in fiscal year 2019 is estimated to amount to \$225,000. The fiscal year 2020 estimate is \$186,027.60.

## MAN

From Page 1

ordered Parongan to return to court on June 26 for his change of plea hearing.

Parongan is charged with first-degree murder, attempted second-degree murder, and assault with a dangerous weapon.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Parongan admitted to being high on drugs (methamphetamine) and drunk on the night of the incident when he allegedly riddled his landlord with stab wounds, killing her.

In the morning after the incident, Parongan allegedly

confessed to smoking methamphetamine and drinking 12 cans of beer on the day of the incident.

The landlord, Josefina Pineda, sustained several stab wounds, including the fatal 4-inch deep gash in the neck.

Her husband, Antonio Barit, sustained 12 stab wounds in the head, upper body, and right arm.

Pineda was allegedly trying to collect house rental from Parongan when the two got into an argument on the evening of Oct. 29, 2017. He allegedly used a kitchen knife to stab Pineda and Barit.

Police arrested Parongan and recovered the knife that same night.

## SUIT

From Page 2

the CNMI could mortgage and foreclose fee simple interest in lands situated in the CNMI.

Plaintiffs also alleged that after they defaulted on the loan, USDA, as guarantor, paid ANZ its 70 percent guaranteed obligation, which was not disclosed to them by ANZ or the USDA, and after which ANZ continued to seek payment of the debt from them.

In their District Court action, the Lizama couple and J&JEV Enterprises Inc. sued ANZ Guam Inc., and five unnamed co-defendants for violations of Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, Commonwealth Consumer Protection Act, and Commonwealth Debt Collection Act-wrongful disclosure, among other claims.

In January 2017, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed the lawsuit.

The Lizamas then appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, asking the court to reverse the dismissal of the racketeering lawsuit.

During the pendency of the appeal, Jesus T. Lizama passed away and his personal representative, Edward Lizama, was substituted as substituted in his place.

In July 2018, the Ninth Circuit affirmed the District Court’s dismissal.

After that, ANZ held a foreclosure sale on July 20, 2018, at the premises of the Victoria Hotel. However, ANZ did not accept any of the bids

presented.

The following month, August, the Lizamas filed this lawsuit in the Superior Court.

In his order last week, Camacho said the District Court first addressed the Lizamas’ allegations in their complaint—that ANZ was required to have a full-service banking license in the CNMI.

Camacho said that, contrary to the Lizamas’ allegation, Manglona found that, “ANZ did in fact have a banking license at the time it instituted foreclosure proceedings in the CNMI.”

Camacho noted that Manglona further found that “there is no requirement under CNMI banking laws that ANZ hold a banking license in the CNMI in order to make a secured loan in Guam or enter into a mortgage agreement over CNMI real property.”

Camacho said Manglona also ruled that “Article 12 does not mention or require a banking license in order to foreclose on a mortgage. Nevertheless, ANZ did hold a CNMI banking license at the time it instituted foreclosure proceedings in the CNMI on June 27, 2000.

Camacho said the District Court also determined that even if the U.S. Department of Agriculture had paid ANZ under its guaranteed obligation, the Lizamas were still liable to pay the outstanding debt balance to ANZ.

Camacho said the District Court’s decision is final because the Ninth Circuit affirmed the dismissal of the complaint, and the time to file with the U.S. Supreme Court has passed.



## Da'ok students learn about deep bottom fishing, more

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**  
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REPORTER

The Saipan Fishing Association entered Week 3 of their five-week program with the Da'ok Academy, by teaching fishing club students about deep bottom fishing, shallow bottom fishing, spearfishing and even the *talaya*—a Chamorro throwing net.

Week 3 had several speakers, including former representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, George Moses, J.D. Tenorio, Mike Tenorio,

and Alex Castro Jr. All talked about several types of fishing techniques.

"We shared information about spearfishing...mainly some of the safety concerns to consider while spearfishing—what fish behavior you would see, what types of fish to expect, and what type of gear you need," said Tenorio, who works in the fisheries research arm of the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Tenorio also touched on conservation and sustainable fishing, where he shared about

the types of fish species that could be fished sustainably. Knowing the maturity of the specific fish also reinforces hunting bigger and older fish. Tenorio was with Ymanuel Sablan during his presentation.

"I exposed them to the basics [of cast-net fishing or the *ta-*

*laya*]," said Deleon Guerrero. "I taught them about how it's used and how to throw it," adding that he also touched on some of the dangers of cast-net fishing.

"Fishing is healthy. [Fishing] would teach them about the ocean and its resources, [and] teach them how to manage it," he said. "They care about their food, [so] they should care about protecting

the environment that harbors their food," he added.

Deleon Guerrero has been cast-net fishing for about 25 years.

Moses touched on both deep bottom and shallow bottom fishing, with equipment costing over \$1,000 to procure. His presentation touched more on fish that dwell in deeper waters of up to 300 feet

and deeper, including *onagas*, *gindais*, *sas*, *ehus*, groupers, *monchongs*, and white tunas. For shallow bottom fishing, or fishing at depths of two to 15 meters, common target species include emperor snappers, skipjack tunas, red snappers, and big-eyed scads.

Moses said he is passing knowledge that his uncles passed to him.

## Deadline for small businesses to apply for exporting aid is June 30

The deadline to apply for assistance under the CNMI State Trade and Expansion Program is June 30, 2019, for grant award year 2018.

The STEP program is funded in part through a grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration to provide financial assistance to qualified small businesses new to exporting as well as current export-ready small businesses in the CNMI.

The STEP program is designed to help increase the number of small businesses that would like to further their business growth through international exporting, both for new-to-export businesses and market-expansion businesses. The end goal is to increase both business growth and job creation through international trade.

"I commend the CNMI Department of Commerce for being proactive in helping us expand our product reach to not only our historical markets, but also the rest of the world," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

"The CNMI economy is dependent on a delicate balance of imports and exports. As our tourism industry continues to recover, the CNMI STEP program would continue to strengthen our export activities and diversify our economic drivers," said Commerce Secretary Mark O. Rabauliman.

The Department of Commerce, in collaboration and partnership with the Commonwealth Development Authority, urges all interested new-to-export as well as export-ready small businesses in the CNMI to take the opportunity to submit an application before the deadline. Application forms may be downloaded via the following link: <http://commerce.gov.mp/cnmi-step>.

For more information about the CNMI STEP program, contact Frank Cabrera, CNMI STEP project coordinator, at (670) 664-3077, David Maratita, CNMI STEP compliance coordinator, at (670) 488-1006, or email [cnmi.step@commerce.gov.mp](mailto:cnmi.step@commerce.gov.mp). (PR)

## McFun Run on Saturday

The Rotary Club of Saipan's 5th Annual McFun 5K Run is set for this Saturday, June 22, according to McDonald's Saipan co-owner/operator and Rotary Club president-elect Marcia Ayuyu.

The McFun Run will be along the pathway from the Carolinian Utt in Garapan to the turnaround point by the National Office Supply.

Rotary Club president Greg Borja said the club expects

about 300 runners for Saturday's fun run. So far, the number of registered runners is at 210.

Interested participants can get registration forms at McDonald's Saipan's headquarters in Dandan, MegaByte, and at the Northern Marianas

Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. Registration begins at 5:30am and ends at 6:15am.

An awards ceremony will be held for top finishers, with prizes to be presented. Participants will be given free T-shirts while supplies last. (Marc Venus)

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# 52 seniors graduate on Tinian

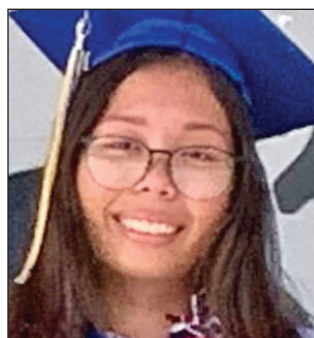
By **ERWIN ENCINARES**  
erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A total of 52 Tinian Junior/Senior High School seniors graduated last June 10 at the Antonio M. Borja Amphitheater on Tinian, with Colleen M. Aquiningoc and Lesley A. Mahilum leading the Class of 2019 as valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively.

In her valedictory address, Aquiningoc noted that, although Tinian faces several adversities, the struggle is what makes Tinian High School students who they are.

"We've learned to take negatives and tune them into positive. ... This is why I'm proud to be from Tinian. I will never forget where I am from and continue to strive to make my island proud," she said. "I am no ordinary woman; my dreams come true."

Aquiningoc expressed gratitude for her friends, late grandmother, and parents. "...I love you both so much and I will pay you both back



**COLLEEN M. AQUININGOC**  
Valedictorian

for [everything]. I promise. Everything I do, I do for you guys," she said.

In her salutatory address, Mahilum gave lower-year students some tips on how to do well in school.

Mahilum highlighted the importance of challenging yourself but not "to the point where it's hurting."

"Manage your time wisely. Do hours when you can, do that homework you've been avoiding for two days. If something can be finished in five minutes, do it now instead of later," she added.



**LESLEY A. MAHILUM**  
Salutatorian

"There is no need to live your life based on the standards of others. Everyone says to dream big, but I don't think that you have to live so fiercely like that all the time," she added.

The graduation ceremony also recognized the Top 10 students of the high school: Jodrik R. Mendiola, Carmina Borja, Crizia P. Rodriguez, Dyna Mae Penaranda, Anthony G. Canlas, Renuka M. Shrestha, Jovilyn M. Ancheta, and Isa Rae C. Dela Cruz, in addition to Mahilum and Aquiningoc.

## 'We help the youth find their passion'

By **BEA CABRERA**  
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

It is graduation season in the CNMI, with many students either going off to college or taking a step back to figure out which degree or career to pursue. 4H Marianas is here for the latter.

According to 4H Marianas president Alyssa Attao, they help the youth find their passion to help them to reach their potential in personal and career growth.

"We actually have so many programs and curriculums to help them find out where their interest is," Attao said.

One of those programs is photography; 4H Marianas is currently opening a photography club at Saipan Southern High School. They also have science, technology, engineering and mathematics or STEM, programs, as well as agriculture programs.

"The mission of 4-H Marianas is to develop leadership, responsibility and life skills through the programs. ... The youth can dip their toes in any of those fields so they can experience and see if they like it before they go off-island," she added.

4H is a recognized organization in the United States



4H Marianas adviser Maia Pangelinan and 4H Marianas president Alyssa Attao say the organization helps the youth find direction and help them strive to reach their full potential.

and its territories. As of 2016, the organization had almost 6 million active participants and more than 25 million alumni.

"4H alumni is really big on giving back to the community and so the experiences you have through the program will really help later with work and even in the community if one wants to do volunteer work," Attao said.

4H started working with the Northern Marianas College in 2015 where it was established as 4H Marianas. The group went into hibernation after Typhoon Soudelor in 2015.

"We began to pick up again in early 2017," Attao said.

She said that 4H Marianas is

still in its infancy; they are in the development stage in the CNMI, "but we have been very active in the community and right now we are deciding if we will open new clubs in the schools or have just a community club."

"From my experience, the program have helped me identify what field I wanted to be working in. I really didn't know what I wanted to do but, through 4H Marianas, [I learned to]... focus my energy working in youth development, education and counseling," she added.

4H Marianas was one of the beneficiaries of the recent Hyatt Charity Golf Tournament, where they received \$12,000. Attao said that the organization is expanding to the different islands.

"To date, 4H Marianas has 40 volunteers from Saipan and Tinian and we have expanded to having 10 advisers and 20 counselor-in-training ages 12-15. We are also working on opening a club [on] Rota to touch base with the youth there," she added.

For inquiries or consultation, call (670)-6840.

## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 23rd birthday to Teisha Camacho! We love you so much and wish you a very wonderful and special day. Either side by side or miles apart, we will always love you no matter what. Greetings come from Mom, Paul, Grandma, and your siblings.



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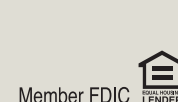


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# Saipan Vegas kicks off summer movie nights



Saipan Vegas kicks off its Summer Family Outdoor Movie Night last June 14 with a showing of *Aquaman*. There was free popcorn and drinks. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Vegas kicked off its Summer Family Outdoor Movie Night last June 14 with a free open-air showing of *Aquaman* at its golf course. There was free popcorn and drinks.

Saipan Vegas said in a statement that the movie showing was well attended and it's the best way to relax and enjoy Friday night this summer with family and friends.

Saipan Vegas once again invites the community to another free outdoor movie night at the golf course, with free popcorn and drink, this Friday, June 21, from 7pm to 9pm. The movie that will be screened is *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*, which has won an Oscar award for Best Animated Feature Film. The movie is a 2018 American

computer-animated superhero film featuring the Marvel Comics character Miles Morales/Spider-Man.

The movie night is open to all ages and though there are tents and picnic tables available, it's still advisable to bring your own chairs and mats.

These movie showings will only last through this summer break. **(PR)**

## Agricultural Fair on July 27

The Saipan Agricultural Fair Association and the Department of Lands and Natural Resources will be hosting the 36th Agricultural Fair on July 27 at the Garapan Central Park, from 8am to 2pm. The event is open to the public.

Exhibitors and entertainers are encouraged to register for the event. Applications can be

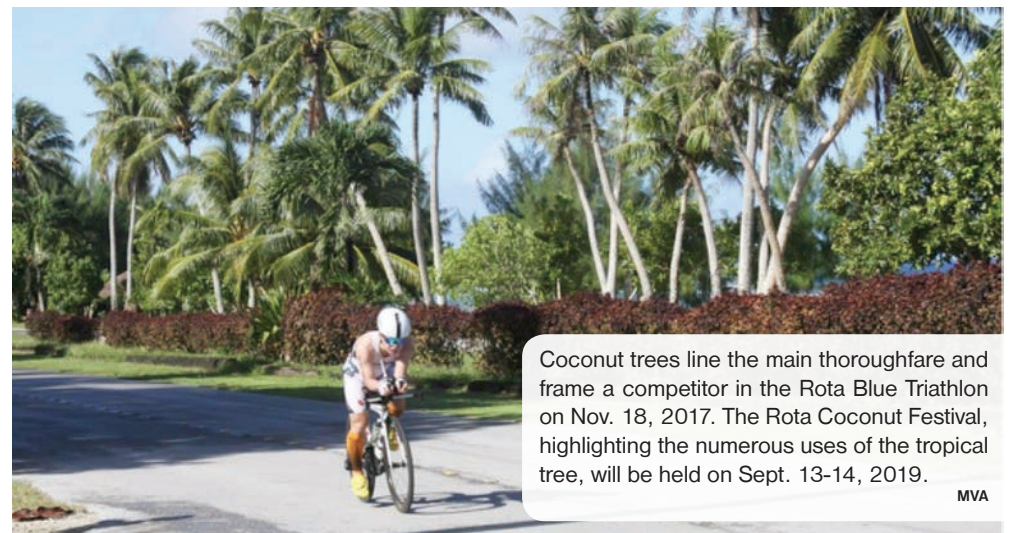
picked up at the Division of Agriculture, the Department of Lands and Natural Resources Parks & Recreation office, and the Garapan Public Farmers Market.

Its host, SAFA, consists of the CNMI Division of Agriculture, the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, the local animal industry, and the Ga-

rapan Public Farmers Market. The fair will have different competitions, including a livestock competition, ornamental flowers and specialty crop division competition, and a plant division competition.

For more information, contact Solly Takai at (670) 234-3276 or Diane Gabaldon, at (670) 256-3320. **(Marc Venus)**

## Rota Coconut Festival set for Sept. 13-14



Rota, renowned among the islands of the Marianas for its untouched nature and warm island hospitality, is gearing up to welcome visitors for the 5th Rota Coconut Festival on Sept. 13-14, 2019.

"The Marianas Visitors Authority is excited to partner again this year with the Rota Mayor's Office on the exciting Rota Coconut Festival, which will provide visitors a truly unique and friendly experience on the

beautiful island of Rota," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "Rota is renowned for its unspoiled natural environment, so it is a more than fitting venue for this celebratory tribute to the staple of Pacific island living—the coconut tree."

The event will feature educational displays and demonstrations related to the coconut, entertainment, games, a coconut scavenger hunt, and a variety of live cook-

ing competitions on site such as the *manha titiyas* (tortillas made with young coconut), *ahu* (soup made with young coconut), coconut candy, and *bunelos manha* (doughnuts made with young coconut).

Additional details will be announced shortly. For more information, contact the Rota Mayor's Office at 1 (670) 532-9451 or field supervisor Sandra Atalig of the MVA at 1 (670) 532-0327 or [satalig@mymarianas.com](mailto:satalig@mymarianas.com). **(MVA)**

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# OIA's Pula awards grants, takes part in 75th WWII anniversary

U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs director Nik Pula recently met with Gov. Ralph Torres in the CNMI where they discussed challenges in disaster recovery efforts, Medicaid funding shortfalls, and labor issues affecting the commonwealth. Pula also presented more than \$2.4 million in grants, bringing the total OIA grant funding support for the CNMI in fiscal year 2019 to about \$14.4 million.

While on Saipan, Pula will also meet with the CNMI secretaries of Commerce and Labor, the acting governor's authorized representative who is the local administrator of federal disaster assistance programs, and Federal Emergency Management Agency officials. In addition, Pula will also visit the Capital Improvement Program office and the Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

The CNMI has suffered a nearly 50-percent loss in tourism revenue as a result of Super Typhoon Yutu, which hit the territory in October 2018. The related and ongoing impacts have recently prompted Torres to implement austerity measures for government workers and the CNMI Board of Education to declare a state of fiscal emergency in the Public School System.

"Assistant [Interior] Secretary [Douglas] Domenech and I will continue to support the CNMI as much as possible through grant funding and working with our federal partners. We are also pleased to see the recently approved 2019 Disaster Relief Act that provides additional support for the CNMI and others at this critical time," said Pula.

## 75th anniversary

While in the territory, Pula also traveled to Tinian for the commemoration ceremony of the 75th Anniversary of the Battles of Saipan and Tinian. Also present at the ceremony were Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan; Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, commander, Joint Region Marianas; and Lt. Gen. Lewis Craparotta, commander, U.S.



Marine Corps Forces, Pacific.

The 75th Anniversary ceremony was a tribute to a significant turning point in World War II in the Pacific Theater. Unlike D-Day in Europe, the Battles of Saipan and Tinian, which led to the surrender of Japan and the end of the war in the Pacific, are little known elsewhere in the world.

"This important chapter in our history reminds us of those values and that our fellow citizens made the ultimate sacrifice to defend and protect," said Pula.

In Washington, D.C., Domenech also participated in a commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Saipan—or "D-Day Pacific"—at the World War II Memorial. The full video of the commemoration in Washington, D.C. is available at <https://vimeo.com/342519724>.

## OIA support

The 2019 funding support from the Office of Insular Affairs for the CNMI combines Technical Assistance Program, Maintenance Assistance Program, Capital Improvement Project, and Compact Impact funds. The CNMI is also scheduled to receive important and critical assistance from the 2019 Disaster Relief Act signed into law on June 6 by President Donald Trump.

A total of \$1,910,249 in fiscal year 2019 TAP funding was provided as follows:

■ Office of the Governor—\$1,500,000 is provided for the Governor's Office to help meet unbudgeted operational needs, inclusive of

utilities, telecommunications, supplies and informational technology costs that were incurred as a result of Super Typhoon Yutu.

■ Commonwealth Health Care Corp.—\$195,253 to procure new monitors for the Intensive Care Unit at the hospital on Saipan. The 20-year-old monitors currently in use are obsolete and have been identified as in "immediate jeopardy" by the Centers for Medicare Services.

■ CHC will also receive \$30,000 for workforce development and training of registered nurses who are interested in becoming specialty certified nurses through a Certified Nurse Manager and Leader certification course. Certified areas include acute and critical care, neonatal, emergency room, and perioperative nursing. Funds

will cover the cost for licensure applications, exam registration, and review guides.

■ Department of Finance and Office Grant Management—\$184,996 will be used to acquire the hardware and software necessary for a CNMI Fixed Asset Inventory and Reconciliation System and additional staff to help perform inventories across the more than fifty agencies in the CNMI government. The Division of Procurement and Supply has repeatedly been cited in the CNMI Single Audit, and has had difficulty achieving its mission of conducting timely, annual inventories as well as obtaining a clean audit.

A total of \$499,630 in fiscal year 2019 MAP funding was provided as follows:

■ Rota municipal government—\$220,605 to procure

for building repair since FEMA funding was made available for temporary classrooms. ■ \$431,604 to support the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s acquisition of a Granular Activated Carbon Treatment System for the Isley Booster station and four other wells on Saipan. The wells provide water to the homes of thousands of people in several villages and to the Airport Rescue and Fighting facility on Saipan. The primary funding for this project is to be provided by a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration.

■ Department of Public Works—\$279,025 to purchase a tire shredder, which would allow the DPW to recycle and repurpose rubber tires for other projects, such as road resurfacing.

A total of \$9,665,000 in fiscal year 2019 CIP funding was also awarded to the CNMI earlier this year. Although most of the 2019 CIP funding will be used as the local cost share for FEMA projects, other projects have also been funded, as listed below.

■ \$7,425,896 will be used as local cost share for FEMA projects on Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Super Typhoon Yutu hazard mitigation projects.

■ \$1 million to be used for repair to classrooms damaged by Yutu. This funding was originally made available to purchase temporary classrooms but then redirected to be used

for building repair since FEMA funding was made available for temporary classrooms.

■ \$706,000 will be used to support the administrative costs of the CIP implementing agency under the Office of the Governor. This agency implements CIP projects from inception to completion independent of the Department of Public Works.

■ \$101,500 will be used to provide repairs and maintenance on federal and locally-funded projects in the CNMI.

Compact Impact funding for FY 2019 in the amount of \$2,261,330, was previously announced and awarded to the CNMI.

More information on the funding provided by the Office of Insular Affairs is available on the OIA website. (PR)

## Hofschneider Engineering donates \$2.5K to JMGC

Hofschneider Engineering Corp. has donated \$2,500 to the upcoming 2019 Joeten Memorial Golf Classic, which will be held this Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's east course.

"We would like to thank Hofschneider Engineering for their generous support. Our event's success is directly related to donations like this," said JMGC's Peter "Dung" Tenorio.

The four different sponsorship packages are Founder's Club (\$5,000), Trustees' Club (\$2,500), Eagle Club (\$1,000), and Friends of JCF (\$999 and below).

Scoring will be Stroke Play, Low Gross format. Senior/La-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hofschneider Engineering Corp. donates \$2,500 to the 2019 Joeten Memorial Golf Classic.

dies Flight will be scored Low Net. Tee time is 7am sharp.

Holes-in-one can win you a Nissan Titan, Honda Ridgeline, Kia Soul GT, and

\$10,000 cash. The tournament will also be followed by an awards banquet and a raffle draw.

All event proceeds support

the Joeten-Daidai Foundation.

For more information, contact 234-5562 or via email at [joetenmgc@joeten.com](mailto:joetenmgc@joeten.com). (PR)

## Bridge Capital donates \$2.5K to JMGC

Bridge Capital LLC has donated \$2,500 cash to the 2019 Joeten Memorial Golf Classic, which will be staged this Saturday at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

"We would like to thank Bridge Capital for their financial support. Our event's success is directly related to generous donations like this," said JMGC's Peter "Dung" Tenorio.

Scoring will be Stroke Play, Low Gross format. Senior/Ladies Flight will be scored Low Net. Game starts



Bridge Capital LLC donates \$2,500 to the 2019 Joeten Memorial Golf Classic, which will be staged this Saturday at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

7am sharp.

Holes-in-one can win a Nissan Titan PRO4X, Honda Ridgeline RTL AWD, Kia Soul GT, and \$10,000 cash. The tournament will also be followed by an awards banquet and raffle drawing, with more chances to win amazing prizes.

All event proceeds support Joeten's philanthropic arm, the Joeten-Daidai Foundation.

For more information, contact 234-5562 or via email at [joetenmgc@joeten.com](mailto:joetenmgc@joeten.com). (PR)

## Scheduled power outage today

There will be a scheduled power interruption today, June 20, 2019, from 9am to 1pm for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers on Capital Hill.

The outage will affect these areas: Guguan Drive, Tano Ct., Pajaron Ln., Farallon Pl., Managaha Pl., Chalan Savana, Marianas Ln., Kantit Ln. and Sari-guan Dr.

The interruption will allow CUC linemen to safely replace rotted primary power poles and to straighten

leaning power poles on Capital Hill as part of the ongoing Super Typhoon Yutu restoration.

CUC appreciates the public's patience throughout this restoration period and will continue to work diligently for better utility services.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)



**COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

**SHRM meeting today moves to Hyatt ballroom**

The Society for Human Resource Management-NMI Chapter invites the public to its general membership meeting today, June 20, 2019, at Hyatt Regency Saipan's ballroom beginning at 11am. The meeting was originally set at the Giovanni's restaurant but due to the increased number of participants, the venue was moved to the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom, the former Sandcastle.

The meeting will feature University of Guam's Dr. John Rivera discussing emotional intelligence in the workplace.

The presentation includes Giovanni's lunch buffet at the cost of \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Penny Jones by e-mail at [penelope.jones@hyatt.com](mailto:penelope.jones@hyatt.com) or Denise Montenegro at [denise.montenegro@hyatt.com](mailto:denise.montenegro@hyatt.com) or by telephone at 323-5867/68. **(PR)**

**Youth summer program now at max capacity**

The number of participants who will join the 2019 Youth Affairs #ILOVEMYOUTH-CENTER Summer Program has reached maximum capac-

ity for pre-registrations and has a very long waitlist. The CNMI Office of Youth Affairs, which is hosting the program, is no longer accepting registrations.

The program's activities will be held simultaneously at the Chalan Kanoa Man'hoben Center and the Gualo Rai Youth Learning Center on weekdays (Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm) from June 24 to Aug. 1, 2019. The centers will be closed on weekends and July 4, 5, and 19.

If parents or guardians would like to be informed of upcoming events conducted by the Office of Youth Affairs, contact [youthaffairs670@gmail.com](mailto:youthaffairs670@gmail.com) or 235-1299. **(PR)**

**Youth Pride Walk on Friday**

The public invited to the first ever Youth Pride Walk on Friday, June 21, 2019 starting at 2pm at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan. This event aims to show support to the LGBTQ+ youth as well as increase awareness of the issues faced by the LGBTQ+ community. Before the walk begins, there will be face painting and sign making, and free "PRIDE" pins and other items will be given away. The walk will start at 3pm from the Carolinian Utt to the Paseo de Marianas for the Rainbow Walk unveiling and proclamation signing. **(PR)**

**MHS Class of '89 reunion**

All classmates and their families from MHS Class of '89 are being invited to a 30th year reunion. The Reunion Mass is on Thursday, June 20, 2019, at 5pm at the Kristo Rai Church. We are inviting families of our deceased classmates to join us to also light their memorial candles during Mass. Immediately after the Mass, there will be a reunion gathering at the residence of the Ivan Propst couple in Susupe. On Saturday, June 22, 2019, All Class of '89 and their families are invited to a family reunion picnic at Minachom At-dão, Civic Center Beach beginning at 9am. Contact Gemadine Camacho at (670) 783-4465 for more information. **(PR)**

**Comments sought on COTA policy update**

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority is updating its Limited English Proficiency Policy Plan and Public Participation Plan. A copy of the LEP and the Public Participation Plan can be obtained at COTA. Written comments must be submitted directly to COTA, Suite 216, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan or via email to: [alfreda.camacho@gov.mp](mailto:alfreda.camacho@gov.mp) no later than July 1, 2019, 2pm. For any questions, contact Diego Songsong, COTA community planner, at (670) 664-2682. **(PR)**



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<p><b>FRIDAY JUNE 21</b></p> <p><b>2pm YouthPrideWalk</b> Start @ Carolinian Utt for activities and sign making. Walk starts at 3PM.</p> <p><i>Hosted by Friends and Family of LGBTQ youth in partnership with CGC, DYS, GLS, OYA, CHCC</i></p>	<p><b>FRIDAY JUNE 21</b></p> <p><b>5pm PRIDE Crosswalk &amp; Proclamation signing</b> @ Fiesta Resort &amp; Spa Crosswalk to the Paseo De Marianas</p> <p><i>Hosted by the Pacific Century Fellows 2019</i></p>	<p><b>FRIDAY JUNE 21</b></p> <p><b>PRIDE PUB CRAWL</b> Garapan after the proclamation</p> <p><i>Hosted by PRIDE Marianas</i></p>	<p><b>THURSDAY JUNE 27</b></p> <p><b>4pm-9pm PRIDE Talks</b></p> <p><i>Hosted by the NMI Humanities Council @ Regal Cinemas</i></p>	<p><b>FRIDAY JUNE 28</b></p> <p><b>TINIAN EVENT</b> <b>5:30pm LGBTIQ PRIDE Motorcade</b> Start – Taga Beach – Mayors Office – Manamko Center – Amphitheater – End</p> <p><b>7pm The Celebration</b> <i>Hosted by the Tinian Mayor's Office</i></p>
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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
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mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Giving voice to missing and murdered indigenous women

**H**igh school track star Rosalie Fish is a class act. At the recent Class 1B meet at Eastern Washington University, she ran not only to win but to share a message about the unacceptable violence that Native American women face every day.

In a special report to The Seattle Times, Dave Trimmer shared Fish's story. She is a member of the Cowlitz Tribe. At the meet, she quietly and respectfully brought attention to missing and murdered indigenous women, or MMIW. She painted those initials on her leg and a red hand over her mouth symbolizing the inability of many victims to speak for themselves. And she won four medals in their honor.

Those might seem small things, but they were effective. Her message is spreading.

Violence against indigenous women and girls has reached a crisis point. More than half of American Indian and Alaska Native women experience sexual violence during their lifetimes, and murder is the third-leading cause of death among them.

Yet the legislative response has been tepid. In Congress, the Not Invisible Act of 2019 would require the Interior Department to hire someone to coordinate a federal response to the crisis. It also would create an advisory committee to study it. Meanwhile, a state bill signed by Gov. Jay Inslee this year encourages better data collection and creates liaison positions for better relations between tribes and state police.

The federal bill remains stalled in committees, and the state bill is only small progress. Neither provides the bold policies and interventions that the crisis demands. They study and increase bureaucracy while women suffer.

Fish declared that's not good enough. This is an imperative issue for her, for indigenous tribes, for our state and for the nation.

What is most impressive about Fish's act was the maturity with which she delivered her message. She didn't grandstand. She didn't disrupt the meet. And she didn't make everything about her. To their credit, the organizers, coaches, fans and other competitors didn't twist her statement into controversy, unlike NFL owners upset with kneeling players.

Fish is headed to college in Iowa in the fall. We have no doubt that she will well represent these women, her community and all of Washington as she continues to run and to lead.

(c)2019 The Seattle Times



## Banning hate never works out as we expect

**W**e did it, America. After letting our social media panic rise for years, we finally helped convince Twitter to ban God.

OK, it wasn't God, per se, but rather TheTwee-OfGod, a satirical account run by a former "Daily Show" writer who posts quips such as, "What happens after you die is pretty funny actually."

Twitter, which like all social media platforms is under increasing consumer and political pressure to police bigotry and extremism, ruled on Tuesday that the ersatz Yahweh had engaged in suspension-worthy "hateful conduct" by tweeting, "If gay people are a mistake, they're a mistake I've made hundreds of millions of times, which proves I'm incompetent and shouldn't be relied upon for anything."

The company quickly reversed itself after the ensuing brouhaha, claiming it had made an "error." Still, this should be (though it almost certainly won't be) a wake-up call—not to the Lords of social media, but to the rest of us heathens. We keep asking Silicon Valley to enforce speech manners on the commons, then recoil in horror when the results inevitably don't go as expected.

Every damned day in 2019, far too many of us wake up in the morning, fire up Facebook, Twitter or YouTube, and then demand that the managers of same censor, demonetize, and even ban people who say things we don't like.

Last week it was the eminently dislikable but nonetheless popular conservative shock-bro Steven Crowder nominated for YouTube de-platforming. Crowder has long mocked Vox video producer Carlos Maza, taunting him as a "lispie queer" and "gay Mexican." (Maza, for the record, is gay of Cuban extraction.)

Maza says Crowder's fans send him torrents of homophobic abuse via social media and text message. So, like many of our modern de-platformers, albeit with considerably more skin in the game, Maza went rifling through YouTube's terms of service for disqualifying violations, and came up with the site's prohibitions on "content or behavior intended to maliciously harass, threaten or bully others."

YouTube initially responded that Crowder's trolling didn't quite rise to the level of incitement. But then the video platform, which is owned by Google, suspended his channel's monetization—basically, preventing him from selling ads until he removes specific content such as links to his site selling "Socialism is for F(ASTERISK)gs" T-shirts.

With the controversy at a high boil (Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Sen. Ted Cruz were weighing in on Twitter, natch), YouTube then announced a sweeping policy change banning "extremist" and denialist videos. Almost immediately, legitimate journalists and historians who cover controversial subjects found their work purged from YouTube.

We are asking social media companies to do the impossible—impose and enforce editorial standards on an endless global stream of user-generated content. The very reason that Face-

By MATT WELCH

Los Angeles Times

Matt Welch is editor-at-large at Reason magazine and a contributing writer to Opinion.



book, Twitter, YouTube et al became popular in the first place—they're so easy to use even Grandpa can do it!—dooms all these post-facto cleanup exercises to failure. An algorithm will never replicate the judgment of a magazine editor, and no human hands can reproduce the efficiency of a 24/7 automated publishing system used by millions.

"Casting a wide net into the Internet with faulty automated moderation technology ... also inadvertently captures useful content like human rights documentation, thus shrinking the democratic sphere," warned a joint report published last month by the Electronic Frontier Foundation, Syrian Archive and Witness. "No proponent of automated content moderation has provided a satisfactory solution to this problem."

Among civil libertarians, the deeper worry is that social media panics are already turning into bad speech-restricting legislation and regulation. Congress last year overwhelmingly passed a likely unconstitutional Online Sex Trafficking Act that holds web publishers retroactively liable for prostitution advertisements posted by users. Each week brings some new Capitol Hill hearing where politicians browbeat technology companies for alleged viewpoint discrimination.

But let's not give short shrift to government censorship's kissing cousin, censoriousness. That's where users increasingly ask technology companies—sometimes under threat of government force—to shut down the speech of people we find distasteful. We really need to knock that off.

The more we treat social media companies like speech-providing utilities, the more they're going to act like utilities—which is to say they'll never go away. Possibly the best single thing about social media behemoths has been that they have a tendency to disappear. No longer are we under the boot heel of Friendster, MySpace or Flickr. There's a reason Facebook and Google are now openly inviting Congress to regulate them—that way they get to help write the rules governing any future competitors.

There are important reasons for individuals to avoid being a terms-of-service tattletale, too.

Especially at a time of increased polarization and political apocalypticism, all of us need to get better at old-fashioned persuasion, and less reliant on third-party authorities to make the bad people go away. Keep politicians away from social media regulation, and let God tweet.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

## A snapshot of the Close-Up program

By PHEONA DAVID

SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

*Editor's Note: The author was one of 14 high school students from both public and private schools in the CNMI who joined their peers in other Pacific jurisdictions last May to visit Washington, D.C. under the Close Up Insular Areas Program. This column was provided as part of a press release.*

**H**afa Adai yan Tirow, reader. Hope all is well. I'm pretty sure some of you may be wondering, "What exactly is this Close-Up trip everyone's been talking about?" or "Why is our children being sent miles and miles away from home?" Well, it's a lucky day for you because I am here to share my experiences with you regarding this trip. This year, from May 3 to 17, I was given the opportunity of a lifetime to travel halfway across the world to participate in an extraordinary

event. This trip took place in the beautiful commonwealth of Washington, D.C and the famous New York City. Here, we got to learn about the U.S government, how it works, and the different governments of various islands throughout the Pacific. In addition, we got to visit many historical sights such as the Capital Hill building, the Washington Monument, and even Lady Liberty! To be very honest, I knew little-to-nothing about our island's government system and how it relates to the U.S. However, what I did know was that we, as the youth of the CNMI, have been facing challenges amongst the community that we feel needs to be addressed and that this was one way in which we can voice our concerns. As we went on through the weeks, my understanding of government and politics grew. It allowed us, the CNMI students along with other island states, to brainstorm on ways in which we can reach out to our government on some of the issues we should focus on. There are many topics in which we shared like climate change, cultural loss,

pollution, and more. But there was one topic that we all agreed on and that was about the mental health of the youth. For a short description, we basically talked about the recent deaths or suicides of the youth throughout the islands and the many factors that play a big role in these deaths. After discussing the problem that we chose to present, we started coming up with solutions and what we can do to help. As we researched more into this topic, we have come to realize that there are many organizations and groups out there, informing and helping the community about mental health. After working on the project, we presented it to the other island groups of the Pacific and got to learn about the issues that they face and what they plan to do about it.

Overall, this trip was an amazing experience. Not only did I get to learn something new, but I also got to meet amazing people from around the world, with different backgrounds and ideas. It was definitely an opportunity that is worth sitting 13 hours on a plane for!

## A discount dental plan: Are the savings worth it?

By DONNA KRUM

SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

**I**t may not be the traditional dental insurance that you get with an HMO or PPO policy like StayWell, TakeCare, or Hawaii Dental Service but a discount dental plan can save you a ton of money. With this kind of dental coverage, you can get the treatment and services that you need—without breaking your budget.

But what exactly is a discount dental plan?

With this type of dental coverage, your monthly premiums are much lower than with traditional policies. You typically receive anywhere from 20-percent to 50-percent discounts on all dental procedures provided by the dental office. Some plans even offer discounts for cosmetic dentistry.

Depending on the discount dental plan you get, instead of getting percentage discounts (such as 100 percent, 80 percent, and 50 percent as in traditional dental insurance), you might

be entitled to special rates—like \$100 for a dental checkup, instead of \$200. That way, you will know exactly what your dental charges are going to be before you ever make an appointment! True discount dental plans publish their fee schedules with three costs: Full fees, the cost that the member pays, and most importantly, what they are actually saving. A very, very transparent plan for patients.

But if you have to pay out a percentage of the costs, are you really saving money with a discount dental plan?

Yes!

Sure, with traditional dental insurance, when you go to the dentist, you might only have to pay a copay—or pay nothing at all if you have already met your deductible. Under a discount dental plan, once you have paid the annual fee (which can be paid biweekly via payroll deduction), you don't have to pay anything else to the insurance company. You will only spend money when you actually go to the dentist, regardless of whether you're using the coverage or not.

Like all other types of insurance for dental services, you

will have to read the fine print carefully on these plans. And you will also have to make sure that a discount dental plan is right for your particular situation. For example, if you need a lot of serious dental work done, you will definitely be better off opting for a discount dental plan, which has no annual maximum. Also, if your teeth are in relatively good shape—and you only need the occasional check-up—a good discount dental plan can save you a lot of money.

Buying insurance for dental purposes is never a whole lot of fun. But once you understand all of the benefits that come along with a discount dental plan, you can save money—and that's something that's always fun!

For more information about discount dental plans available in the CNMI, contact me at 234-4040.

*Donna Krum, CIC, CPCU owns Friends First Marketing, Inc. and is the plan administrator for the Island Smiles Dental Plan.*

## Billionaires aren't the problem

**B**ernie Sanders can't decide what socialism is. At times he frames it as nothing more than New Deal-style capitalism, not so different from the Scandinavian economies of Norway, Sweden or Denmark. Other times he defines it in the language of class struggle, vowing to smash "the oligarchy" and "restore power to the many, not the few."

In a speech last week at George Washington University, Sanders attempted to merge the two definitions: He aimed to finish the New Deal, he said, precisely because a failure to do so would threaten an oligarchic takeover of the U.S. He criticized the expansion of the power of the 1%, America's richest self-made man and the wealthiest American dynasty. Only by defeating these moneyed interests, he said, can Americans gain access to the economic rights so vital to the survival of their political rights.

There's only one problem: Billionaires and social democracy are both doing quite well, thank you, in Scandinavia.

First, there is the 1%. If anything, Sweden, Norway and, to a lesser extent Denmark are friendlier to the accumulation of great wealth than is the U.S. Indeed, the ranks of billionaires have grown more rapidly in Scandinavia in recent years than in the U.S. Denmark has just as many billionaires per capita as the U.S., and Sweden and Norway have far more.

Nor are Scandinavians opposed to the maintenance of wealthy dynasties. Neither Norway nor Sweden has an estate tax, and there is a move to abolish Denmark's 15% rate.

In the U.S. the estate tax is 40%. Dividends, meanwhile—a common source of income for the dynastic rich—are given about as much if not more of a tax break, relative to labor, in Scandinavia.

What about moneyed corporate interests? Sanders points to the 2017 Tax Cut and Jobs Act, which included a large corporate tax cut, as a sign of oligarchical power. But the U.S. corporate tax rate is still higher than it is in Scandinavia.

How, then, is it possible for the Scandinavians to afford such an expansive welfare state? Three words: Higher income taxes. The tax code in Scandinavian countries is far less progressive, and therefore more efficient at raising revenue, than in the U.S. In the U.S., the top federal tax rate on wages is 40.8%, and it takes effect once annual income reaches above \$600,000. In Denmark, the top marginal bracket is 55.9%, and it starts once pay exceeds \$82,000 a year.

Further, all three countries levy a substantial value-added tax, which is not on income but on consumption. By the standards of many American economists, the VAT counts as a regressive tax, because the wealthy consume a small fraction of their overall income.

In short, the Scandinavian countries levy large taxes on the middle class and even the poor to pay for services that largely go to the middle class and the poor. This was, in fact, also the thinking behind the New Deal. The taxes that fund Social Security are payroll taxes, the least progressive federal taxes. When Medicare was created in 1965, it too was paid for by a payroll tax.

By KARL W. SMITH

Bloomberg News

*Karl W. Smith is a former assistant professor of economics at the University of North Carolina's school of government and founder of the blog Modeled Behavior.*








New Deal capitalism wasn't about class warfare. It was about social insurance. It's the 99% chipping in to take care of each other, not take down the 1%. There is a deep intuitive logic to this: The idea is that recipients of government benefits—whether they be Scandinavians or American retirees on Social Security—not feel as if their benefits are something they've been given by (or taken from) the ignoble rich. They are something they've at least partially earned.

In truth, American retirees are getting a great deal as it stands. The health care they receive, for example, costs a lot more than what they paid into the system when they were working. An honest discussion about expanding entitlements would recognize that such a change would require higher taxes not just on the super-rich, but on almost all working Americans, of today and tomorrow. If Sanders wants to bring more Scandinavian-style social democracy to the U.S., he should be straightforward about that.

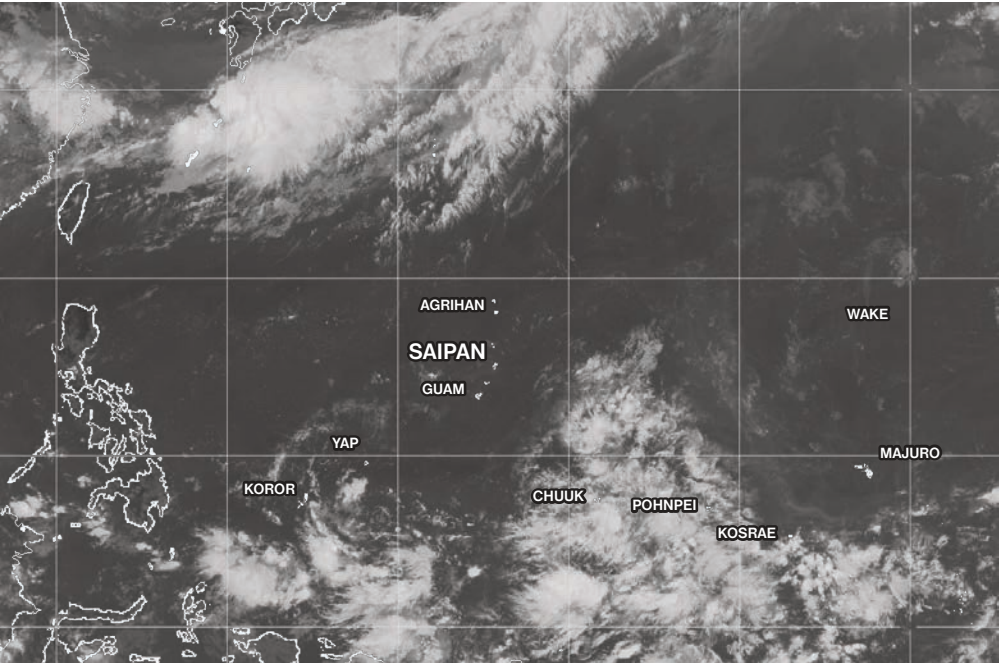


# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 10 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
90°	79°	90°	79°	90°	79°	90°	79°	90°	79°

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



### PICTURE TIME: 7:11 AM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Mostly cloudy skies and isolated showers are seen across the Marianas with drier conditions just to the east toward 150E. A weak circulation is found SSE of Yap while another disturbance is found near Chuuk and Pohnpei with showers extending northward to near 14N.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	88° / 80°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	83° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	87° / 80°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	84° / 80°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Showers	63° / 50°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	88° / 68°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	90° / 82°	
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 75°	
London	Partly Cloudy	68° / 54°	
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	70° / 63°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	93° / 81°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	54° / 39°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°	
New York	Thunderstorm	77° / 67°	
Osaka	Showers	82° / 72°	
Paris	Showers	70° / 54°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	79° / 64°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	88° / 64°	
Salem	Thunderstorm	91° / 73°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	66° / 55°	
Seoul	Thunderstorm	82° / 63°	
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	81° / 68°	
Washington, DC	Thunderstorm	89° / 69°	



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PAPA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT &E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 2, 2019

### DEPARTURES

#### SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	10:00am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

#### SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4

#### SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	5:10am	8:55am	1, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	Daily

#### SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7
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#### SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

#### SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6
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#### SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7
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#### SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

#### SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

### ARRIVALS

#### GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:15am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

#### BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

#### SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	09:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	6, 7

#### SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
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#### HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7

#### GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
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#### BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
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#### MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

#### HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	00:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

#### SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

#### ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

#### ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

#### GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

#### SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily

1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

#### TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily





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**\$25<sup>95</sup>** BETTER CHEF 9L TOASTER OVEN BROILER

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# Business

## Matson christens first Kanaloa Class vessel *Lurline*

**SAN DIEGO, Calif.**—Matson, Inc. (NYSE: MATX), a leading U.S. carrier in the Pacific, and General Dynamics NASSCO shipyard, christened the largest combination container/roll-on, roll-off (“con-ro”) ship ever built in the United States in a ceremony at the NASSCO shipyard in San Diego, CA on Saturday, June 15.

The new vessel is named *Lurline*, an iconic name in Matson’s long history, dating to the construction of Captain William Matson’s first ship of that name in 1887. Four more ships were given the name in subsequent years; this vessel will be the sixth.

The new *Lurline* is the first of two new ships being built for Honolulu-based Matson by NASSCO at a total cost of approximately \$500 million for the pair, and the third of four new vessels that Matson will put into service during 2018, 2019 and 2020. Named in honor of the ocean deity revered in the native Hawaiian culture, Matson’s two “Kanaloa Class” vessels under construction at the NASSCO shipyard are being built on a 3,500 TEU vessel platform.

At 870 feet long, 114 feet wide (beam), with a deep draft of 38 feet and weighing in at over 50,000 metric tons,

*Lurline* will be Matson’s largest ship and the largest con-ro vessel ever constructed in the U.S. It will also be one of Matson’s fastest vessels, with a top speed of 23 knots, helping ensure on-time deliveries in Hawaii from Matson’s three West Coast terminals in Seattle, Oakland and Long Beach.

Both new Kanaloa Class vessels will have an enclosed garage with room for approximately 500 vehicles plus ample space for rolling stock and breakbulk cargo. They will also feature state-of-the-art green technology, including a fuel-efficient hull design, environmentally safe double hull fuel tanks, fresh water ballast systems and the first Tier 3 dual fuel engines to be deployed in containerships serving West Coast ports.

Under the latest International Maritime Organization (IMO) requirements for engine manufacturers, Tier 3 engines reduce the levels of particulate emissions by 40 percent and nitrogen oxide emissions by 20 percent, as compared to Tier 2 standards.

“The great speed, capacity and environmental improvements of this new ship position us well to serve the needs of our communities in Hawaii for many years to come,” said Matt Cox, Matson’s chairman



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

At 870 feet long, 114 feet wide (beam), with a deep draft of 38 feet and weighing in at over 50,000 metric tons, *Lurline* will be Matson’s largest ship and the largest con-ro vessel ever constructed in the U.S.

and chief executive officer, after the shipyard ceremony.

“As a proud U.S. company and Jones Act carrier, our investment in this new ship is about much more than maintaining a high level of service to Hawaii. It also helps drive substantial economic benefits in and opportunities in communities around the Pacific, where this vessel will operate,” Cox said.

“The construction of this ship requires 150,000-man hours to complete. It’s over a year’s work for about 2,000 professionals here at NASSCO...engineers, tradesmen and lots of support people. And over its expected lifespan, this ship will generate approximately 4.5-million man

hours of work opportunity for the U.S. mariners who will operate it...not to mention all the dock workers and terminal personnel that move the cargo on and off our ships, and all the people who produced the materials used to build this ship that are sourced here in the U.S....like the steel that came from Iowa and Alabama.

“These are all living wage jobs, supporting the families of these American workers, the taxes they pay...it all flows from this one ship,” Cox said, adding, “Multiply that by all the ships NASSCO and other U.S. shipyards are building, and you get a sense of the value of the maritime industry to our country and its economy.

In California alone, there are more than 51,000 jobs tied to the American maritime industry, providing over 3.6 billion dollars in labor income with a total economic impact in the state of more than twelve billion dollars.”

“Designing and building the *Lurline* brings pride to every member of our team,” said Kevin Graney, president of General Dynamics NASSCO. “It’s an honor to add the Kanaloa Class vessels to NASSCO’s decades-long history in Jones Act ship production.”

Matson invited Constance Lau, a member of Matson’s board of directors, to officially christen the vessel by breaking a ceremonial bottle of champagne against the ship’s hull. Immediately after the bottle

was broken, the vessel was released from its build ways and slid backward into San Diego Bay.

*Lurline* was then docked at NASSCO’s nearby testing and trials berth, where the final stages of construction will be completed. Matson is expected to take delivery of the vessel in late October, 2019.

The ceremony was attended by approximately 700 people, including members of Matson’s and NASSCO’s executive and project teams, Matson board members, Navy and Coast Guard officials and members of the general public.

More information on *Lurline* and Matson’s fleet modernization program is available at: <https://www.matson.com/kanaloa-class.html>. (PR)

## SYP hosts ‘Hiring 101’ training

The Saipan Young Professionals is hosting a “Hiring 101” training seminar today, June 20. This training will help support:

- Self-employed entrepreneurs wanting to learn more about the next big step – hiring staff,
- Small business owners and managers hoping to improve their hiring techniques,
- Young professionals aspiring to be business owners, and
- Individuals interested in human resources wanting to grow in their profession.

The guest speakers for this seminar are SYP member Derek Cutting, who is the owner and founder of Latter Built 24 Hour Gyms in Kagman III and Oleai, and Polly Deleon Guerrero Masga, who is the owner and lead consultant of Access 670 Consulting.

In this seminar, participants will learn: step-by-step process of hiring employees in the CNMI, strategies to creating an “A-Team” for your business, and the importance of hiring employees for business expansion.

Cutting personally invites the community to attend: “If you dream of turning your passion into a paycheck like I

did, you need to build a team of likeminded individuals who support and represent your passion. ‘Self-employment’ is a start, but you are still a slave to your own creation and will most likely get burnt out and have a high probability of never getting to the next level without a team. ‘Business ownership,’ however, is that next level... Build a team, lead the team, and most importantly empower the team to achieve all the many needed day to day tasks of transforming your dream into a reality.”

The training seminar will be held today, June 20, from 6pm-8pm at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office located on the 3rd floor of the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite #315. The training is free to registered Saipan Young Professionals and is \$35/non-SYP members. Advance registration is encouraged as limited seating is available. Participants will enjoy light refreshments and a chance to network with other business professionals in the community. To register or for more information, please contact Mercilynn Kaneshi Palec at (670) 234-7150 or email [administrator@saipanchamber.com](mailto:administrator@saipanchamber.com). (PR)



Cutting



Masga

## Boeing signs first deal for 737 Max jet since deadly crashes

**PARIS (AP)**—Boeing is selling its 737 Max planes again.

The company announced at the Paris Air Show on Tuesday that International Airlines Group, the parent company of British Airways and other carriers, signed a letter of intent for 200 Boeing 737 aircraft.

Boeing said it’s the first sale of the jetliner since the crash of an Ethiopian Airlines 737 Max in March. Another 737 Max crashed in Indonesia last year. All planes of the same model are now grounded amid an investigation of problematic software.

The letter of intent is subject to final agreement, but is a vote of confidence in Boeing as it struggles to win back trust from airlines, pilots, regulators and the traveling public.

The combination of 737-Max 8 and 737-Max 10 planes would cost \$24 billion at list

prices, though companies usually strike deals for discounts. The planes would be delivered between 2023 and 2027 to airlines owned by IAG.

IAG expressed optimism that regulators will allow amended Max jets to fly again soon. But it’s unclear when that will be, notably for regulators outside the U.S.

The Ethiopian Airlines and Lion Air crashes killed 346 people. Boeing executives started off the Paris Air Show on Monday with a sweeping apology to victims’ families and airlines.

Analysts had predicted that Boeing might try to announce some Max orders at the air show to demonstrate that the plane - one of Boeing’s most popular models - still has support.

Boeing depends heavily on the aircraft and has said it

is costing at least \$1 billion to address problems with the troubled jet. But the company has struggled to get a handle on the Max controversy.

The CEO says Boeing botched communication with regulators and is promising more transparency.

After lackluster sales in recent months, Boeing’s orders picked up Tuesday. It announced a deal with Korean Air and Air Lease Corporation for a total of 30 long-range 787 jets, worth \$6.3 billion at list prices.

European rival Airbus also announced several orders Tuesday. Before announcing its Boeing Max deal, industry powerhouse IAG signed a firm order with Airbus for new A321XLR long-range jets, for its airlines Aer Lingus and Iberia.

Airbus also reported sales

to Delta Air Lines, Saudi Arabian Airlines and Atlantic Airways, and announced a feasibility study for vertical takeoff and landing aircraft that could shuttle visitors to the Paris 2024 Olympics.

Both Airbus and Boeing face a slowing economy that tempered the mood at the air show.

The companies, along with other manufacturers, came together Tuesday to promise more investment in reducing aviation emissions even as global air travel is expected to rise significantly in the decades to come.

Plane makers are under increased pressure from regulators and passengers concerned about climate-damaging emissions. They are looking at hybrid, electric or hydrogen technology to eventually replace existing fuel.

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New Zealand Dollar	1.53		
Philippine Peso	50.89		



# Nation

## 33K pounds of cocaine seized in one of biggest US drug busts

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)**—U.S. authorities seized 33,000 pounds, or 15,000 kilograms, of cocaine from a ship at Philadelphia's port in what they described as one of the largest drug busts in American history.

They said the haul could have been worth more than \$1 billion on the street.

The U.S. attorney's office in Philadelphia announced the massive bust on Twitter on Tuesday afternoon, saying that law enforcement agents found the cocaine on a ship at the Packer Marine Terminal. Two members of the crew were arrested and face federal charges.

Agents with dogs swarmed the colossal ship Tuesday afternoon, including one officer who could be seen climbing into the back of a large red container on wheels. Court documents said the bust began Monday.

An affidavit alleged that crew members helped load the cocaine onto the MSC Gayane while it was at sea off the west coast of South America. Citing an interview with one of the crew members, authorities said a total of 14 boats approached the vessel on two separate occasions during its voyage. Several crew members allegedly helped transfer bales of cocaine.



The ship's second mate, Ivan Durasevic, and another crew member, Fonofaavae Tiasage, were charged with conspiracy to possess cocaine aboard a ship. An online court docket did not list attorneys for the defendants. It wasn't clear whether other crew members would face charges.

The drug seizure is the latest in a series of large cocaine busts along the East Coast. In

a March bust in Philadelphia, drug dogs sniffed out 1,185 pounds (538 kilograms) of cocaine worth about \$38 million—at that time the city's largest seizure of the drug in more than two decades.

In February, customs agents seized 3,200 pounds (1,451 kilograms) at the Port of New York and New Jersey with a street value estimated at \$77 million. That was the

largest cocaine bust at the ports since 1994.

Online ship trackers said the vessel detained in Philadelphia sails under the flag of Liberia and arrived in Philadelphia after 5 a.m. Monday. The ship's previ-

ous ports of call were the Bahamas on June 13, Panama on June 9, Peru on May 24 and Colombia on May 19, records show.

Federal authorities say Colombia is the primary supplier of cocaine to the U.S.

U.S. authorities seized more than \$1 billion worth of cocaine from a ship at a Philadelphia port, calling it one of the largest drug busts in American history.

The MSC Gayane's owner, MSC Mediterranean Shipping Co., said in a statement it was "aware of reports of an incident at the Port of Philadelphia in which U.S. authorities made a seizure of illicit cargo." The privately owned Swiss shipping company said it "takes this matter very seriously and is grateful to the authorities for identifying any suspected abuse of its services."

Patrick Trainor, a spokesman for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in Philadelphia, said that based on current prices in the area, the street value of the haul is around \$525 million to well over \$1 billion.

Tuesday's seizure did not set a U.S. record. A 1989 bust in downtown Los Angeles netted almost 43,000 pounds (19,504 kilograms) of the drug.

## Trump protesters rally at gay bar blocks from arena speech

**ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)**—Opponents of President Donald Trump's reelection announcement Tuesday in Florida rebuked his administration's policies at a rally outside a gay bar with performances by a mariachi band and a drag queen, speeches by a transgender woman and women who had abortions and the appearance of a 20-foot-high (6-meter-high) blimp of a scowling Trump in a diaper.

"The goal is to get under his skin," said Mark Offerman, the handler of the blimp known as "Baby Trump."

"Baby Trump" wasn't the only helium-dependent iteration of the president at the rally. Lane Blackwell, who owns a clothing and swimwear store in Orlando, had manufactured 200 small balloons with Trump in a diaper and passed them out.

"People can't get enough of these," he said.

Organizers of the "Win With Love Rally" said Trump's announcement in Orlando on Tuesday night was an affront to a city with a visible gay community and a large Puerto Rican population. Orlando is at the center of the Interstate 4 corridor, stretching from Tampa to Daytona Beach, which is considered the swingiest part of the nation's largest battleground state.

Opponents blame the Republican president for holding up disaster aid to Puerto Rico over a feud with Democratic leaders on the island. The Trump

administration also has moved to revoke newly won health care protections for transgender people, restrict their presence in the military, and withdraw federal guidance that trans students should be able to use bathrooms of their choice.

"We're fighting back against an administration that thinks we can be erased," said Gina Duncan, a transgender activist in Orlando. "We won't be erased."

The president's reelection announcement comes a week after the third anniversary of the massacre of 49 people at the gay Pulse club, a turning point for Orlando community leaders in embracing ideas of diversity and tolerance, said Ida Eskamani, a protest organizer. The club closed after the shooting, and a planned memorial is in development on the site.

"Orlando is such a bastion of hope and love and solidarity of marginalized people since Pulse and we have embraced that identity of who we are as a community," Eskamani said. "We want to show the country that Trump's brand of politics doesn't work along the I-4 corridor. We are ready to win with love."

The chairman of the local Republican Party said Trump is fighting for all Americans.

"For them to say Donald Trump doesn't like gay people is wrong. For them to say Donald Trump doesn't like Hispanics is wrong," said Charles Hart, chairman of the

Orange County Republican Executive Committee.

Trump's visit in Orlando split Shaun Noble's family. His mother was at the Trump announcement while he was at the anti-Trump protest.

"It's really caused a divide in our relationship," Noble said. "It's my right to believe what I want to believe as a gay man. It's her right to believe what she wants to believe."

Orlando's hometown newspaper said Tuesday in an editorial that it won't endorse Trump.

"Some readers will wonder how we could possibly eliminate a candidate so far before an election, and before knowing the identity of his opponent," the Orlando Sentinel wrote. "Because there's no point pretending we would ever recommend that readers vote for Trump."

The editorial went on to say that it has had "enough of the chaos, the division, the schoolyard insults, the self-aggrandizement, the corruption, and especially the lies."

Several times at the anti-Trump rally, groups of men wearing black "Proud Boy" T-shirts and red "Make America Great Again" hats tried to enter the street where the anti-Trump protesters were gathered. They were stopped by groups of police officers and deputies. As they walked away, a man from the far-right Proud Boys group said, "We're just Americans. This is a sad day."

## San Francisco moves closer to nation's 1st e-cigarette ban

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)**—San Francisco supervisors moved a step closer Tuesday to becoming the first city in the U.S. to ban all sales of electronic cigarettes to crack down on youth vaping.

Supervisors unanimously approved a ban on the sale and distribution of e-cigarettes. They also endorsed a ban on manufacturing of e-cigarettes on city property. The measures will require a subsequent vote before becoming law.

"We spent the '90s battling big tobacco, and now we see its new form in e-cigarettes," Supervisor Shamann Walton said.

The supervisors acknowledged that the legislation would not entirely prevent youth vaping, but they hoped it would be a start.

"This is about thinking about the next generation of users and thinking about protecting the overall health and sending a message to the rest of the state and the country: Follow our lead," Supervisor Ahsha Safai said.

City Attorney Dennis Herrera said young people "have almost indiscriminate access to a product that shouldn't even be on the market."

Because the Food and Drug Administration has not yet completed a study to assess the public health consequences of e-cigarettes and approved or rejected them, he said, "it's unfortunately falling to states and localities to step into the breach."

Most experts agree that e-cigarettes are less harmful than the paper-and-tobacco variety because they do not produce all the cancer-causing byproducts found in cigarette smoke. But researchers say they are only beginning to understand the risks of e-cigarettes, which they think may damage the lungs and blood vessels.

Since 2014, e-cigarettes have been the most commonly used tobacco product among young people in the country. Last year, 1 in 5 U.S. high school students reported vaping in the previous month, according to a government survey.

FDA spokesman Michael Felberbaum said in a statement that the agency will continue to fight e-cigarette use, including preventing youth access to the products, acting against manufacturers and retailers who illegally market or sell the products to minors and educating young people about health risks.

Leading San Francisco-based e-cigarette company Juul frames vaping as a healthier alternative to smoking tobacco. Juul has said it has taken steps to deter children from using its products. The company said in a statement that it has made its online age-verification process more robust and shut down its Instagram and Facebook accounts to try to discourage vaping by those under 21.

"But the prohibition of vapor products for all adults in San Francisco will not effectively address underage use and will leave cigarettes on shelves as the only choice for adult smokers, even though they kill 40,000 Californians every year," Juul spokesman Ted Kwong said.

Tuesday's vote also sets the stage for a November ballot fight over e-cigarettes. Juul has already contributed \$500,000 to the Coalition for Reasonable Vaping Regulation, which is set to gather signatures to put an initiative on the issue before voters.

The American Vaping Association opposed San Francisco's proposal as well, saying adult smokers deserve access to less hazardous alternatives.



## Asia

## Hong Kong protesters slam leader's apology, demand she quit

**HONG KONG (AP)**—Hong Kong pro-democracy lawmakers and activists rejected a new apology Tuesday by the city's leader over a highly unpopular extradition bill, demanding that she quit and that the legislation be scrapped completely.

Lam's plea for "another chance" drew a chorus of criticism, though members of pro-Beijing political parties and her Cabinet, the Executive Council, expressed their support.

Some activists said if the government does not meet those and other demands by a 5 p.m. Thursday deadline, they plan a mass "resistance movement." That would follow a peaceful but rousing march Sunday by some 2 million people worried that the legislation would further compromise the dwindling autonomy of the former British colony.

Asked repeatedly for a reassurance that she was dropping the bill that would allow some Hong Kong suspects to be tried in mainland Chinese courts, Beijing-appointed Lam would only say she would not revive it without certainty of its acceptance.

"In recognition of the anxiety and fears caused by the bill in the last few months, if we



don't have confidence from the people we will not proceed with the legislative exercise again," Lam said.

"I will not proceed with this legislative exercise if these fears and anxieties could not be adequately addressed," she said.

The latest round of protests behind them, Hong Kong legislators were due to meet Wednesday. A proposed vote of no confidence by pro-democracy lawmakers was on the agenda, but they are outnumbered by pro-Beijing

members. Officials were also due to be asked about complaints of police brutality against some protesters.

Claudia Mo, a pro-democracy member of the city's Legislative Council, called Lam's appearance before news media Tuesday "completely unacceptable."

"She refused to address the demands of the entire Hong Kong community," Mo said, noting that Lam herself admitted that the remaining three years of her term would likely

be "very, very difficult."

Mo said "we will fight on as usual within and without the legislature for Hong Kong's true democracy campaign."

"Not only is this apology not sincere, it is fake. We need to point out that Carrie Lam has created a governing cri-

**AP**  
Pro-democracy activists, from right, Agnes Chow, Joshua Wong and Nathan Law, hold photos of Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam, right, and Commissioner of Police Stephen Lo as they speak to the media outside government office in Hong Kong, Tuesday, June 18, 2019.

sis," said Joshua Wong, a dissident who joined the protests Monday after his release from a 1-month prison term related to his involvement in demonstrations in 2014.

Wong said that while he was behind bars some prison staff, who are government civil servants, told him that they had joined recent protest rallies.

Many in Hong Kong fear a further weakening of the territory's legal autonomy at a time when Communist-ruled China is growing increasingly authoritarian.

Samson Yuen, a professor at Hong Kong's Lingnan University, said the extradition bill

is like a "knife at the throat" for many in Hong Kong.

"There's a lot of energy, emotion and passion and also anger," he said in an interview. "It's a total mobilization of society."

The bill has ignited several large protests, including the huge march on Sunday and another of as many as 1 million people a week earlier.

Police used tear gas, steel batons and rubber bullets to subdue protesters during scuffles outside the government headquarters last Wednesday. Some protesters staged "resistance" efforts in a nearby subway station. It's unclear how much patience the majority of Hong Kong residents would have for more such disruptions.

The protesters have also demanded apologies for forceful tactics used by police and reassurances that those involved in the earlier protests would not be charged with "rioting," which can carry a jail sentence of up to 10 years. Lam earlier characterized the clashes as riots.

## Quake shakes NW Japan, causes 21 injuries and minor damage

**TOKYO (AP)**—A powerful earthquake jolted northwestern Japan late Tuesday, causing minor injuries to 21 people and a brief evacuation of coastal homes until the risk of a tsunami passed.

Store floors were littered with goods that fell off shelves, and roofs of homes showed bare spots where tiles had shaken loose. But business was returning to normal Wednesday morning, with trains mostly running as usual and electricity restored to thousands of homes that lost power temporarily.

There were no reports of serious damage from the magnitude 6.7 quake. Minor sea level changes were detected by several coastal cities, but the tsunami warning was lifted after about 2 1/2 hours.

Japan's Meteorological Agency said the earthquake struck off the western coast of Yamagata about 50 kilometers (30 miles) southwest of the city of Sakata. It was fairly shallow, about 14 kilometers (9 miles) below the sea's surface. Shallow quakes tend to cause more damage.

The Fire and Disaster Management Agency said 21 people were injured, most of them in Yamagata prefecture and that most injuries had minor injuries.



Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga urged residents to be prepared for possible aftershocks.

Tsuruoka city crisis management official Takehiko Takahashi said in a televised interview that city officials helped coastal residents evacuate to higher ground as a precaution before the tsunami warning was lifted.

More than 1,500 people took shelter at evacuation centers in Murakami city and elsewhere in Niigata prefecture, but many of them left Wednesday morning to check their homes. Public broad-

caster NHK showed people using flattened cardboard boxes as mattresses to sleep on in a school gym. Many others, including children, were still awake and sitting against the walls.

Bullet train service was suspended in parts of the region because of power outages and for safety checks, but were functioning normally Wednesday morning. About 9,000 households in Yamagata and Niigata lost power, according to Tohoku Electric Power Co.

All seven reactors at the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear plant in Niigata were offline and no abnormalities were reported. Two other nuclear power plants in the affected region were also intact, according to the Nuclear Regulation Authority.

NHK showed broken glasses and dishes scattered on the floor of a bar in Tsuruoka which was empty after customers rushed out, leaving behind their half-eaten food on the counter.

Japan is one of the most earthquake- and tsunami-prone areas in the world. On March 11, 2011, a magnitude 9.0 quake offshore caused a tsunami that triggered meltdowns at the Fukushima nuclear power plant. The quake and tsunami heavily damaged coastal neighborhoods and took more than 18,000 lives.

## ASIAN BRIEFS

## Rescue efforts underway after China quake kills at least 12

**BEIJING (AP)**—Rescue efforts were underway Tuesday after an earthquake in southwestern China left 12 people dead and 135 others injured, authorities said. Hundreds of firefighters arrived early Tuesday and rescued at least eight trapped people, the Chinese Ministry of Emergency Management said. State broadcaster CCTV showed soldiers using a chainsaw to cut through a wooden door and rescue a couple under a fallen kitchen wall. More than 4,400 people have been evacuated after 73 houses collapsed, authorities said. Most of the deaths were caused by damage to houses, the official Xinhua News Agency said. A major highway and sections of other roads were closed, Xinhua said. CCTV showed a landslide down a hill and onto a road. Sichuan emergency management said direct economic losses exceeded 10 million yuan (\$1.4 million). A 6.0 magnitude earthquake and a 5.1 magnitude aftershock struck the area in Sichuan province late Monday night. Aftershocks continued into Tuesday morning. The hardest-hit area appeared to be Changning county, part of Yibin city. CCTV reported that a hospital in Changning transferred all of its patients because of building damage.

## Pakistani army helicopter saves 6 climbers hit by avalanche

**ISLAMABAD (AP)**—A Pakistani army helicopter rescued on Tuesday four Italian and two Pakistani climbers stranded at an altitude of around 5,300 meters (17,390 feet) in the country's north, after an avalanche struck the team the previous day, a mountaineering worker said. A Pakistani member of the team was killed. The expedition was hit while descending a peak in the Ishkoman Valley, located in the northern district of Ghizar. Karrar Haidri, head of Pakistan's Alpine Club, told The Associated Press that the six surviving climbers were taken to a hospital in the nearby town of Gilgit for the treatment of injuries. "Sadly, one Pakistani mountaineer was killed, but six other members of the expedition are being treated at a hospital," he said. "A Pakistan army helicopter was used for this complicated but successful rescue operation, despite the fact that the stranded mountaineers were present at an altitude of around 5,300 meters," he added. Ashraf Aman, a Pakistani tour operator who arranged the expedition, confirmed that Pakistan's military had dispatched the helicopter earlier on Tuesday morning to rescue the climbers.

## Watchdog says Filipino gangs seized 10 fishermen off Borneo

**KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)**—Filipino kidnap-for-ransom gangs raided two fishing boats and abducted 10 crew members Tuesday in waters off Borneo island, a Malaysian official and a maritime watchdog said. The kidnapping, which came after a 6-month lull of such activities, renewed concerns about security threats in Malaysia's Sabah state, which is a short boat ride from the southern Philippine bases of Muslim militants and kidnapping gangs. The Kuala Lumpur-based International Maritime Bureau said the fishing boats, carrying more than a dozen crew members, were approached by two vessels near the Philippines border. It said the pirates boarded the fishing boats, confiscated documents and kidnapped 10 crew members before sailing toward Sitangkai Island in the Philippines. It urged vessels plying the area to be watchful. The fishermen's nationalities weren't confirmed. Sabah police couldn't be immediately reached for comment. A Malaysian official helping to monitor terrorism incidents said Abu Sayyaf militants are the prime suspects. The official, who declined to be named as he isn't authorized to speak to the media, said authorities expect them to make their ransom demand soon like in the past.



# World

## UN: Nearly 71M now displaced by war, violence at home

GENEVA (AP)—A record 71 million people have been displaced worldwide from war, persecution and other violence, the U.N. refugee agency said Wednesday, an increase of more than 2 million from last year and an overall total that

would amount to the world's 20th most populous country.

The annual "Global Trends" report released by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees counts the number of the world's refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced

people at the end of 2018, in some cases following decades of living away from home.

The figures, coming on the eve of World Refugee Day on Thursday, are bound to add fuel to a debate at the intersection of international law, human rights and domestic politics, especially the movement in some countries, including the U.S., against immigrants and refugees.

Launching the report, the high commissioner, Filippo Grandi, had a message for U.S. President Donald Trump and other world leaders, calling it "damaging" to depict

migrants and refugees as threats to jobs and security in host countries. Often, they are fleeing insecurity and danger themselves, he said.

The report also puts a statistical skeleton onto often-poignant individual stories of people struggling to survive by crossing rivers, deserts, seas, fences and other barriers, natural and man-made, to escape government oppression, gang killings, sexual abuse, militia murders and other such violence at home.

UNHCR said 70.8 million people were forcibly displaced at the end of last year, up from

about 68.5 million in 2017 — and nearly a 65% increase from a decade ago. Among them, nearly three in five people — or more than 41 million people — have been displaced within their home countries.

"The global trends, once again unfortunately, go in what I would say is the wrong direction," Grandi told reporters in Geneva. "There are new conflicts, new situations, producing refugees, adding themselves to the old ones. The old ones never get resolved."

The phenomenon is both growing in size and duration. Some four-fifths of the "dis-

placement situations" have lasted more than five years. After eight years of war in Syria, for instance, its people continue to make up the largest population of forcibly displaced people, at some 13 million.

Amid runaway inflation and political turmoil at home, Venezuelans for the first time accounted for the largest number of new asylum-seekers in 2018, with more than 340,000 — or more than one in five worldwide last year. Asylum-seekers receive international protection as they await acceptance or rejection of their requests for refugee status.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### About 160 dead after days of Congo intercommunal violence

KINSHASA, Congo

(AP)—More than 160 people have been killed in two weeks of intercommunal violence in several villages of Congo's northeast Ituri province, the governor said Tuesday, while the United Nations said some 300,000 people have been displaced. Governor Jean Bamanisa told The Associated Press that 161 bodies had been found and authorities were still trying to determine the extent of the violence. The violence has been taking place in a remote area of Congo near South Sudan and Uganda where the U.N. said it and humanitarian groups don't have much access. Thousands of people were said to be sleeping in the open and without any kind of food aid. Authorities believe the perpetrators were militia fighters from the Lendu community. Congo's military believes they are linked to Mathieu Ngudjolo, who was acquitted of war crimes at the International Criminal Court in 2012. Untold thousands of people lost their lives in conflicts between the Lendu and Hema communities between 1999 and 2004. U.N. peacekeepers were dispatched to Congo to try to maintain order and remain in the region combatting various rebel groups. New unrest was seen in 2017 and 2018.

#### Italian woman who was Europe's oldest person has died at 116

MILAN (AP)—A 116-year-old Italian woman who authorities say was the oldest person in Europe and the second oldest in the world has died. The Italian news agency ANSA said Giuseppina Robucci died Tuesday in the southern Italian town of Poggio Imperiale, where she was born on March 20, 1903. She lived 116 years and 90 days. Robert Young of the U.S.-based Gerontology Research Group said Robucci was the last European born in 1903. She was just

two months younger than the current oldest living person, Kane Tanaka of Japan, who was born on Jan. 2, 1903, he said. Robucci is No. 17 on the list of people in the world who have lived the longest lives. Known locally as Nonna Pepa, Robucci had five children, nine grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. ANSA said she ran a coffee bar with her husband for years, and had been named "honorary mayor" in 2012. "We are saddened by her death, but at the same time we are honored to have had her as a fellow citizen," Alfonso D'Aloisio, the town's mayor, told ANSA. Italy previously claimed the world's oldest woman, Emma Moran, the last living person verified to have been born in the 1800s, died on April 15, 2017 at the age of 117 years and 137 days.

#### Germany's Merkel says she's OK after shaking at ceremony

BERLIN (AP)—German Chancellor Angela Merkel appeared unsteady and was visibly shaking Tuesday as she greeted the new Ukrainian leader in the hot sun in Berlin, saying later that she clearly hadn't drunk enough water. Merkel's whole body visibly shook and she pursed her lips as she tried to contain the situation as she stood with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy in the 28-degree Celsius (82-degree Fahrenheit) heat while a military band played their national anthems outside the chancellery. But following the anthems, Merkel seemed better, walking quickly along the red carpet with Zelenskiy into the building, pausing to greet the military band and take a salute. About an hour later, following their meeting, Merkel told reporters at a joint news conference that they had discussed bilateral issues and the Minsk peace process during Zelenskiy's first visit to the German capital as president. Merkel, who turns 65 next month, smiled broadly after a reporter asked whether her shaking was cause for concern. She replied that she was fine.



Venezuelan migrants climb-up on to Peruvian Army truck to be transported on the Pan-American Highway, after stricter entry requirements went into effect, in Tumbes, Peru, Saturday, June 15, 2019.

## Porous border could hinder efforts to stem spread of Ebola

MPONDWE, Uganda (AP)—Several well-trodden paths crisscross this lush area where people walk between Congo and Uganda to visit nearby family and friends and go to the busy markets.

The problem is that the pedestrians may unknowingly be carrying the deadly Ebola virus, and hindering efforts to control the current outbreak in eastern Congo, which has killed more than 1,400 people.

The busy border post is open 12 hours a day from 7 a.m., but after dark people walk along the "panyas," or "mouse paths," as the narrow dirt trails are known in the local Kiswahili language.

The footpaths show the close kinship between the two countries, where most people have relatives on both sides of the border. But as Ebola rages they are a source of worry for

health workers and local authorities trying to prevent any further cross-border contamination. Eastern Congo has battled the Ebola outbreak since last August and last week the disease spread to Uganda, where two people died of the hemorrhagic fever.

"This border is very porous," said James Mwanga, a Ugandan police officer in charge of the Mpondwe border post. "You will not know who has passed if the person went through the unofficial border posts, in most cases. Now there is anxiety and so on. We have heightened our alertness."

The Ebola deaths in Uganda happened after a family of Congolese-Ugandans traveled to Congo to care for a family elder suffering from the disease.

Authorities believe members of that family, including a 5-year-old boy and his

50-year-old grandmother who have since died of Ebola, took a footpath back into Uganda. In doing so, they may have exposed many Ugandans to the viral disease.

The current outbreak in eastern Congo has become the second worst, after the West Africa epidemic of 2014-2016 in which more than 11,000 people died.

The virus can spread quickly via close contact with bodily fluids of those infected and can be fatal in up to 90% of cases.

Despite new anti-Ebola vaccines, non-biological factors have made the outbreak difficult to control.

Eastern Congo is one of the world's most turbulent regions, and rebels have attacked medical centers. Community resistance based in fear and mistrust has also hurt

Ebola response work.

Identifying people who might have been exposed is crucial. The World Health Organization says at least 112 Ebola contacts have been identified in Uganda.

The outbreak is an "extraordinary event" of deep concern but does not yet merit being declared a global emergency, a World Health Organization expert committee said last week.

Declaring an emergency could have "unintended consequences," such as airlines stopping flights or governments closing borders, Preben Aavitsland, the acting chair of the committee, told reporters.

Congo's Ministry of Health said the decision shows that its efforts to control the outbreak are effective, and some Congolese health workers are also opposed to declaring an emergency.



# Environment

## Coat the ravens evermore?

To protect tortoises, officials test spraying oil into birds' nests



TNS  
Mercy Vaughn, president of Sundance Biology, holds juvenile desert tortoise shells found near raven nests in North Barstow.

By LOUIS SAHAGUN  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

**BARSTOW, Calif.**—The sun was rising over the Mojave Desert as crews prepared to demonstrate a devastating new weapon in the war among man, bird and reptile.

Standing on a windswept plain, a group of government and utility officials locked their eyes on a drone as it hovered beside a twisted Joshua tree. As the buzzing contraption drew closer to a nest of twigs and furniture stuffing, a controller's voice cut through the cool morning air.

"Five, four, three, two, one—fire!"

Instantly, the quadcopter squirted streams of silicone oil into the unoccupied raven's nest, thoroughly coating a clutch of simulated eggs.

Though the attack may have lacked the shock and awe of a Hellfire missile strike, it would have proved lethal to actual raven eggs. The layering of oil would have prevented oxygen from permeating the shells, slowly suffocating the embryos within.

After confirming the direct hit on a video feed, the drone's controllers summoned it back to the desert floor, where biologist Tim Shields gave an approving nod.

"The ravens that built this nest wanted to have kids and grandkids," he said.

The population of the common raven is exploding across the American West, where it thrives on human refuse and roadkill.

As the large, strutting predators piggyback on the spread of human civilization, they are expanding into territories where they have never been seen in such large numbers. This expansion has come at the expense of several threatened species, including the desert tortoise, whose soft-shelled hatchlings and juveniles have been devoured by the birds.

Even tortoises up to 10 years old have shells that are too thin to withstand the hammering of a raven's beak. Numerous carcasses, looking much like helmets punctured by armor-piercing bullets, have been found beneath raven nests. In one instance, researchers counted 250 juvenile tortoise carcasses under a single nest over a four-year period, according to federal wildlife officials.

Shields, a conservation consultant who helped develop the drone, said the device isn't intended to wipe out ravens. Instead, it would persuade them to "move out, allowing juvenile tortoises to grow up."

Not everyone is convinced, however.

Peter Coates, a biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, withheld a full endorsement of the device after watching the recent demonstration. He said additional field tests were needed. "Egg-oiling with drone technology has some potential to be a very valuable tool," he said.

So far, human efforts to defend the desert tortoise from aerial attacks and create "no-fly zones" over the arid Southern California landscape have met with little success.

Wildlife officials have tried shooting, poisoning and trapping ravens—methods that come with a potential backlash from animal advocates and the risk of allowing surviving ravens to teach others how to avoid human culling strategies.

Likewise, power company workers and municipal crews have conducted search-and-destroy missions for nests built on transmission towers, telephone poles and billboards, only to see other ravens take their places.

Even the U.S. military, which is bound to protect tortoises on its sprawling desert bases, has attempted to repel ravens with green laser rifles. Unfortunately, the nonlethal devices

have annoyed humans just as much as birds.

Other options now on the drawing board include "techno-tortoises": realistic replicas of baby tortoises that, when pecked or bitten, emit irritants derived from grape juice concentrates, a chemical compound already used to keep birds from congregating on agricultural fields and commercial centers.

But these efforts have had little effect on *Corvus corax*, an aggressive and extraordinarily clever species. Attracted by the scent of garbage, they have one of the broadest diets in the avian world, and they will try to eat almost anything that will fit in their beaks, as well as things that won't if they can be torn apart into bite-size chunks.

The havoc caused by the ravens is not apparent to the casual observer. But it is obvious to biologists when, in the spring, fewer tortoises emerge from burrows to mate and fatten up on fruit and flowers.

Since 1990, the number of desert tortoises in the western Mojave has plummeted by more than 90%. The causes are numerous and include disease, vehicle strikes, mining, development and the construction of solar farms and wind facilities. However, predation by ravens has complicated matters by targeting the youngest generation of tortoises.

Research biologist Mercy Vaughn, who partnered with Shields to develop the egg-oiling drone, winced as she recalled how plentiful tortoises once were in the Mojave.

"Surveys conducted in 1994 turned up 250 tortoises per square mile in some areas," she said. "Now, there's maybe one or two."

Four years ago, Vaughn and Shields began to experiment with egg oiling, a long-established, relatively humane method for reduc-

ing reproductive output of ground nesting birds such as Canada geese, which damage lawns, and double-crested cormorants, which compete with trawlers for fish.

In those cases, the process involves removing fertilized eggs from a nest by hand, coating them with corn oil, and then placing them back in the nest.

To apply oil to raven eggs in nests perched on cliff faces or electrical transmission towers, Vaughn and Shields began fine-tuning unmanned aerial vehicles equipped with high-resolution video cameras and high-pressure spray technology.

They also began studying raven nesting behavior in order to determine the ideal time to treat a full clutch of as many as five raven eggs.

Mated pairs of ravens typically travel long distances, visiting existing nests or potential sites to build new ones. The female begins to sit on a nest a few days before laying her clutch. After producing eggs, she sits on the nest for up to 28 days. One or both parents stay in the nest to protect hatchlings, which grow to nearly adult size within several weeks.

Established nests can host generations of unrelated raven families.

The research team decided that the most effective and humane time to oil raven eggs is during their embryos' second trimester. That's because the further along the embryos are, the more likely adult ravens are to stay sitting on the eggs.

"If ravens figure out earlier than that their eggs are rotten, they are likely to eat them and nest somewhere else," Vaughn said. "If we wait longer than that to treat their eggs, chances are that we'll have a baby raven in the nest."

Although the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does not require a permit to oil the eggs of Canada geese, oil-

ing raven eggs with an experimental technology in federally designated wildlife habitat is strictly prohibited, except for special research purposes.

"We're operating with scientific collecting permits," Vaughn said, "which are not easy to get."

Over the last two months, a team of biologists, computer experts and certified drone operators led by Vaughn and Shields has oiled 525 raven eggs in 116 nests within public lands designated as critical habitat for desert tortoises.

With raven populations growing at a rate of 2.5% a year, they have their work cut out for them.

As the inter-species battle continues, Shields said he is compiling "an address book" of every raven nest in the Mojave Desert.

Of particular concern are massive nests, such as one perched about 200 feet above the ground in the scaffolding of a transmission tower owned by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, roughly four miles northwest of Barstow.

Getting the research team's caravan of four-wheel drive vehicles and pickup trucks to that remote location required picking routes carefully around rocks, potholes and tortoises along 10 miles of washboard dirt road.

En route, the group stopped and piled out for a closer look at an adult tortoise with gashes and tooth marks on the front edge of its scuffed carapace.

Wearing rubber gloves, Kerry Holcomb, a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, moved him to safer ground in the shade of a creosote bush.

"It's a male making the rounds at the end of the spring mating season," Holcomb said.

Meanwhile, high above man and tortoise, a pair of ravens croaked and wheeled in a cloudless sky.



# Life & Style

## Jon Stewart keeping up pressure on Mitch McConnell

### SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

#### John Cusack apologizes for anti-Semitic tweet

Actor John Cusack is apologizing for tweeting an anti-Semitic cartoon and quotation after defending the post, then deleting it. The image showed a blue Star of David above a hand pushing down on a group of people accompanied by a quote frequently misattributed to the philosopher Voltaire: "To learn who rules over you, simply find out who you are not allowed to criticize." Cusack added, "Follow the money." The quotation is a reworking of one from American white nationalist and Holocaust denier Kevin Alfred Strom. Cusack initially defended the tweet against social media critics, accusing Israel of atrocities against Palestinians. He then blamed a "bot" for the post before deleting it. "Made a mistake retweeting that—as I said—and sorry," he later tweeted.

#### Netflix announces 2 more seasons of 'Queer Eye'

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** (AP)—Netflix's show "Queer Eye" says it's bringing fabulousness to the masses for two more seasons. The streaming service announced Tuesday that the fourth season will debut July 19. The eight episodes were shot in the Kansas City area, where last season the stars revamped a prison guard, a children's camp program director and

two sisters who own a barbecue joint. Netflix also says production will begin soon in Philadelphia for the fifth season, which will be released next year. The show features resident fashion expert, Tan France, along with food guru Antoni Porowski, hairstylist Jonathan Van Ness, culture expert Karamo Brown and home designer Bobby Berk. The Emmy-winning show is a reboot of the 2003 series "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy."

#### Former Hearst CEO Frank Bennack writing memoir

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Former Hearst CEO Frank Bennack is working on a memoir. Simon & Schuster announced Tuesday that Bennack's "Leave Something on the Table: And Other Surprising Lessons for Success in Business and in Life" will come out in October. According to the publisher, Bennack will share "insider anecdotes" and "hard-won lessons" as he remembers his long reign at Hearst, where he served as CEO for more than 25 years. Bennack, who stepped down in 2013, still serves as Hearst's executive vice chairman. He said in a statement that his book was about "the value of values," personal and professional. Bennack, 86, presided over a time of expansion and diversification at Hearst, investing in ESPN and other television channels and helping launch O, The Oprah Magazine and HGTV Magazine.

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Comic Jon Stewart used his buddy Stephen Colbert's late-night show to keep the heat on Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell for passage of legislation to replenish a victims' fund for first responders to the 9/11 attacks.

Stewart mocked McConnell on Colbert's "Late Show" Monday night, even though the Senate leader had said earlier Monday that the issue would be addressed. Stewart demanded greater urgency.

A longtime advocate for police and firefighters who worked after the attacks, Stewart is taking a biting lobbying effort to platforms that McConnell isn't necessarily used to.

The former host of "The Daily Show" testified last week at a public hearing on a bill that would ensure the fund can pay benefits for 70 years. He scolded legislators who had not shown up. He turned his attention to McConnell, appearing over the

weekend with Chris Wallace on Fox.

"Many things in Congress happen at the last minute," McConnell said Monday on Fox News Channel. "We've never failed to address this issue and we will address it again ... I don't know why he's bent out of shape."

Stewart accused McConnell of slow-walking the legislation and using it as a political pawn to get other things done.

"If you're busy I get it," Stewart said. "Just understand

that the next time we have war, or you're being robbed, or your house is on fire and you make that desperate call for help, don't get bent out of shape if they show up at the last minute with fewer people than you thought would pay attention and don't actually put it out. Just leave it there smoldering for another five years."

He urged McConnell to meet right away with 9/11 survivors and "don't make them beg."

## Tree that some say inspired Dr. Seuss' 'The Lorax' topples

**SAN DIEGO** (AP)—A century-old tree with a long trunk and bushy branches that some believe was the inspiration for fictional Truffula trees in Dr. Seuss' "The Lorax" has fallen in a coastal San Diego park.

Officials are investigating why the wind-swept Monterey cypress toppled in Ellen Browning Scripps Park last week, the San Diego Union-Tribune reported Monday. "The tree was not dead at the time it fell, and with the exception of some stressing due to termites, was generally in good shape," said Parks and Recreation spokesman Tim Graham.

According to local legend, the tree inspired the "The Lo-



This June 17, 2019 photo shows a Monterey cypress tree that was toppled in Ellen Browning Scripps Park last week in La Jolla, Calif.

rax" by Theodor "Dr. Seuss" Geisel, who lived nearby and worked in an office with a

sweeping view of the coastline.

But there are no facts to back up the lore. His wife, Au-

## Wayne Newton tells Vegas jury he fired shot as burglars fled

**LAS VEGAS** (AP)—Longtime Las Vegas entertainer Wayne Newton told a Nevada jury on Tuesday that he fired a gunshot to scare away two burglars that he and his wife and their teenage daughter encountered during a second burglary in 10 days at their home a year ago.

"My wife was in hysterics and crying," Newton said, adding that Kathleen McCrone Newton told him one of the fleeing men raised a tire iron as if to hit her before he used the metal rod to attack one of the family's large Rhodesian Ridgeback dogs.

"She said, 'Shoot 'em. Shoot 'em. There they are. He almost hit me with the pipe iron,'" the 77-year-old "Danke Schoen" singer said. "I decided to take one shot in the air. That was the last time I saw them."

The testimony came during trial for Weslie Hosea Martin,

a 22-year-old Nevada prison inmate accused of being one of the burglars that night and of also burglarizing the Newton mansion and a neighboring home 10 days earlier. The second suspect in the Newton home burglary has not been identified or apprehended.

## Daughter plays second fiddle to brother with grandchild

**DEAR ABBY:** My mother has always had a horrible habit of making plans and canceling at the last minute. When I make plans with her, she invariably cancels the day of. Lately she has started making me feel guilty for not coming around more.

I lost my license two years ago, so I can't drive, and I work full time. She has no job and several vehicles. I'm not saying she doesn't have things going on, but I can't help but feel she's just going through the motions and making it seem like she cares.

My younger brother had a baby girl last year, and Mom constantly has her or is trying to get her. To top it off, my brother lives in the same town I do. It makes me feel invisible.

I know when parents say they don't have a favorite child, they are lying through their teeth, but this is blatant. I'm in my 30s and shouldn't still be feeling like this. Please help. I feel like my parents would be better off with one less child to make fake plans with.

INVISIBLE IN OHIO

**DEAR INVISIBLE:** Whether your brother is the favored child, I can't opine. However, it makes no sense that your mother would guilt you for not seeing her more often and then stand you up when you try.

Because you feel slighted, **TELL HER** how hurtful it is. If the situation doesn't improve, plan fewer visits with her

and concentrate on spending your time with people who do make you feel appreciated and loved.

**DEAR ABBY:** I have been friends with a guy, "Derrick," since high school. He recently confided that for the last few years of his marriage he has been involved in an on-again, off-again affair.

He also told me that for most of his marriage his wife has been putting him down, blaming him for all their problems, constantly accusing him of cheating (they have been married far longer than the affair has been going on) and not letting him see his friends. Abby, I have witnessed some of her behavior myself, and it explains why he seemed to drop off the earth after he signed his marriage certificate.

I don't know how to help him. He has tried to get his wife to agree to marriage counseling, but she refuses. He has young children, and he's afraid that if he tries to divorce her, she'll make sure he never sees them again.

She has spent years wearing him down and won. He's no longer the outgoing, happy person I used to know. He was always ready to help anyone who needed him, and I want to return the favor. How?

SUPPORTIVE FRIEND IN VERMONT

**DEAR FRIEND:** Suggest to your friend that because his

### DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



**wife refuses to go to marriage counseling does not mean he shouldn't go for individual counseling without her. If he does, it may be life-changing for him in a positive way because he may be able to reconnect with the person he was before he entered his emotionally abusive marriage. I can't promise his future will be problem-free after that, but he will be stronger and more able to cope with whatever his wife (or ex-wife) throws his way.**

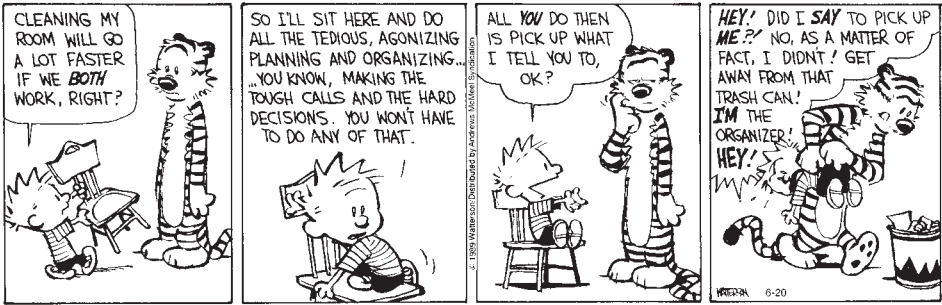
Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



Pastimes

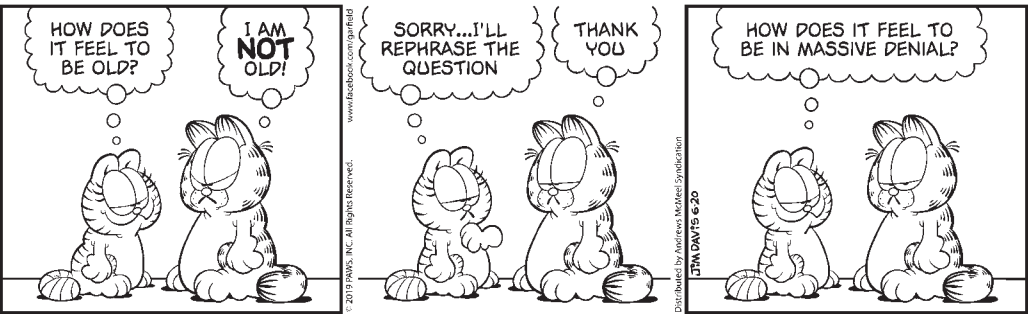
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



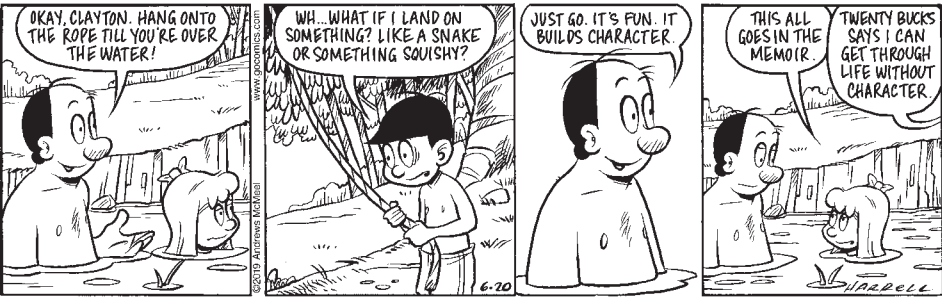
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



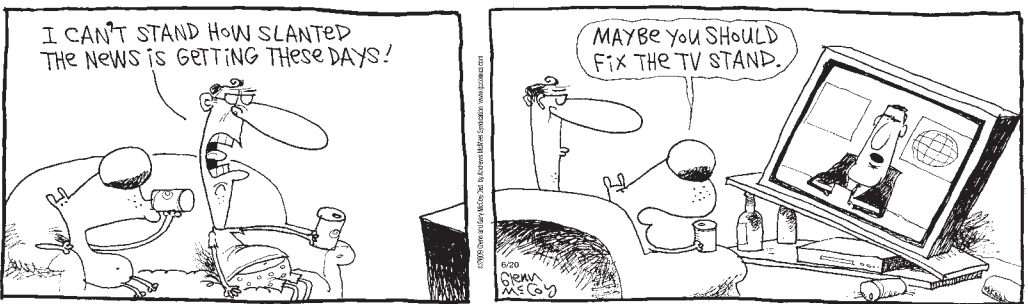
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Apple tablet

5 Dispensed candy

8 1980s Chrysler line

12 — bene

13 King, in Cannes

14 British noble

15 Diner employee

16 Gerund ending

17 Pub potables

18 Candy bar nut

20 Stoic philosopher

22 Base-ball film starring Robert Redford

26 Kathman-du's land

29 Census stat

30 Chemical suffix

31 Exploits

32 LPs' successors

33 Air outlet

34 — de mer

35 Before

36 Rodeo rope

**DOWN**

1 Bygone Peruvian

2 Betting group

3 Teensy bit

4 Stately duo?

5 A deadly sin

6 Long time

7 Slaloms

8 Reeves of

9 Dieters count

10 "Right you —!"

11 "Kid-napped"

12 Squealer

13 North Sea

14 Stanley Cup org.

15 Custom

16 List-ending abbr.

17 First bed

18 Emmy-winning Daly

19 Zing

20 "Xanadu" band

21 Ms. Thurman

**37** Baseball film starring Kevin Costner

**40** Hawaiian island

**41** Phase

**45** Quick look

**47** Extended lunch?

**49** "Doing my best"

**50** Vogue

**51** Brit. record label

**52** April forecast

**53** D.C. insiders

**54** Squealer

**55** North Sea feeder

**21** Paris summer

**23** Consumer crusader

**24** Curry and Landers

**25** Jared of "Panic Room"

**26** Feeling no pain

**27** Birthright barterer

**28** Helter-skelter

**32** Squad car

**33** Dracula, for one

**35** College URL

**36** Vegas lead-in

**38** Minne-sota's 10,000+

**39** Custom

**42** List-ending abbr.

**43** First bed

**44** Emmy-winning Daly

**45** Zing

**46** "Xanadu" band

**48** Ms. Thurman

**Solution time: 24 mins.**

**Yesterday's answer 6-20**

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Alisan Porter, 38; Nicole Kidman, 52; John Goodman, 67; Lionel Richie, 70.

**Happy Birthday:** Learn from experience when dealing with affairs of the heart or matters of friendship or sibling rivalry. Your memory will serve you well if someone tries to take advantage of you. A positive attitude coupled with a solid plan will help keep anyone at a distance who tries to interfere with what you want to do. Confidence and taking action will pay off. Your numbers are 3, 9, 13, 22, 31, 36, 45.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Don't stop until you are happy with the outcome. Take physical action, and it will stop anyone who tries to get in your way. Refuse to let criticism slow you down. A personal gain is heading your direction. ★★★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Keep emotions under control when dealing with professional matters. You'll achieve far more if you live up to your promises and do the best job possible. Focus on setting the standard, not stooping to a rival's level. ★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** An emotional situation will turn in your favor if you use examples to make your case. Someone will make a last-minute change that will alert you to consider his or her reliability. Take care of business personally. Romance is highlighted. ★★★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Don't worry about what others are doing. Stick to what you know works best for you,

and do your best to finish what you start. Don't feel you have to give someone a handout if you don't believe in the cause. ★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Make a change because you want to, not because someone else is. Your happiness depends on the choices you make. Spend more time on personal growth, fitness and romance. Strive to be your best, and you will excel. ★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** You'll have a productive day if you stay focused on what's important to you. Refuse to let anyone distract you or waste your time playing emotional mind games with you. Take the high road, and give your all to what's essential. ★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Distance yourself from negative influences and inconsistent people. Make a point to improve your attitude and to make changes that will boost your confidence. Show compassion for the underdog, and exhibit disdain for those who take advantage of others. ★★★★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Temptation should be put on the back burner. Concentrate on being productive and putting a unique spin on whatever you do. Don't trust anyone who makes an unrealistic promise or asks you for a handout. ★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** An old friend will be a reminder of what you experienced in the past. Don't lose sight of who has helped you and who has caused you grief. Mistakes can turn into an asset if you acknowledge them and learn from what transpired. ★★★★★

**EUGENIA LAST**

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Turn a lemon into lemonade. If someone makes an unexpected change, don't get riled up. Make the most of whatever situation you face, and you will come out on top. Proceed at your own speed in the direction that suits you best. ★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Share your emotions by showing how much you care. A kind gesture or act of love will help you come to an understanding with someone you care about. Don't limit what you can do because someone makes an unexpected change. ★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** You'll be offered advice. Sometimes when you reach out to help someone, you end up being the one who is enriched by the experience. Open your heart, and you'll be rewarded. ★★

**Birthday Baby:** You are charming, playful and smart. You are flexible and reliable.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit [EugeniaLast.com](http://EugeniaLast.com), or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13			14				
15				16			17				
18				19			20	21			
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53						54			55		

**SUDOKU**

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

	8			7		3	
5				1		2	8
	9						
7			6	1			
	6					9	
			2	3			7
						7	
8		1	2				6
	7		9			5	

Difficulty Level ★★★

6/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	2	8	3	7	1	4	5	9
7	1	3	4	9	5	8	6	2
5	4	9	6	2	8	3	1	7
9	7	2	8	5	3	6	4	1
8	5	1	2	4	6	9	7	3
3	6	4	9	1	7	5	2	8
2	8	5	7	3	4	1	9	6
4	9	6	1	8	2	7	3	5
1	3	7	5	6	9	2	8	4

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**WONDERWORD®**

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

**Solution: 9 letters**

N N Y S D Y R O T S I H C G P  
O O L O U N N O I T A C O L L  
I I I B N R E T T A P H H O E  
T T M T I L V R I T D I O B V  
A A A M A R K E T I A L R A A  
P C F R E L T N Y S T D T L R  
U U S E E D U H G T A R G E T  
C D A M T S I P I S E C S P  
C E M O C N I C O C A N A O U  
O S P T F O O D A P L P L I O  
M U L S M S I Z E L E L M T R  
A O E U R B A N L N S E G A G  
I H S C E N S U S E T A R R C  
L I F E S T Y L E L I F O R P  
C I M O N O C E G A U G N A L

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Ages, Birth, Campaign, Census, Children, Cohort, Customer, Data, Economic, Education, Family, Food, Global, Group, History, House, Income, Language, Lifestyle, Location, Mail, Market, Medical, Music, Occupation, Pattern, Polls, Population, Profile, Rates, Ratios, Resident, Sales, Sample, Size, Statistic, Survey, Target, Travel, Trend, Urban

**Yesterday's Answer: Tendril**

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# Report: Kawhi focused on Clippers, not Lakers



Newly crowned NBA Champion Kawhi Leonard may have his eye on Los Angeles if he decides to leave the Toronto Raptors—but it's not the team you think.

ESPN's Adrian Wojnarowski appeared on "Get Up" on Tuesday morning and reported some new and interesting information about Leonard's upcoming free agent decision. According to him, there is a Los Angeles team in the running, but it's not the Los Angeles Lakers—it's the Los Angeles Clippers.

"The reality is Kawhi Leonard's focused on Los Angeles, but it's the Clippers, not the Lakers. No. 1, they don't have the money to sign him. And two, the idea of him being a third wheel on a team trying to create a superteam, that has not been Kawhi's M.O. The Clippers are poised to be able to lure him from Toronto. This will be a Raptors-Clippers fight down to the end. He may take meetings with more teams; it's not even certain he'd even take a meeting with the Lakers right now," Wojnarowski said.

Leonard turning down a meeting with the Lakers seems almost inconceivable, especially since they just added Anthony Davis to a team that already has LeBron James and Kyle Kuzma. Adding Leonard would make the Lakers an automatic playoff favorite.

But if Leonard won't take a discount (since the Lakers won't have enough cap space to offer a max deal), and if he doesn't want to play second or third fiddle to LeBron James and Anthony Davis, it's natural that the Riverside, Calif. native could turn to the other Los Angeles team. The Clip-



AP  
Toronto Raptors forward Kawhi Leonard (2) shoots against the Golden State Warriors during the second half of Game 6 of the NBA Finals in Oakland, Calif., Thursday, June 13, 2019.

pers don't have the same prestige as the Lakers (or the same playoff outlook), but they do have money. And that counts for something.

But what could count for more is what Toronto offers. Not only do the Raptors want to re-sign Leonard, he just gave them their first championship in franchise history. He was a star there before they beat the Golden State Warriors, but now he's a bona fide legend and the undisputed face of the franchise,

part of a team that will go down in Raptors history. And that team is ready to compete again next year—the only thing missing his him.

Leonard received the key to the city at Monday's championship parade and rally.

For now, however, the two-way star and two-time NBA Finals MVP isn't saying whether he'll use it to keep a door open or close it behind him and move on.

Leonard spent several days partying with his teammates

in Las Vegas and Los Angeles after last Thursday's Game 6 clincher over Golden State, returning to Toronto in time to ride in one of five open-top double-decker buses that carried the Raptors along a crowded parade route.

A three-time All-Star and two-time NBA defensive player of the year, Leonard is expected to decline the player option on the final year of his contract and become a free agent. Toronto can offer him a five-year deal worth around

\$190 million, one year and some \$50 million more than any other team.

Before stepping on stage Monday for a ceremony in the square outside Toronto's City Hall, Leonard said he hasn't been thinking about his future. Instead, he's trying to extend the celebratory vibe as long as possible.

"I'm enjoying this" he said. "It's not time to stress, it's still time to have some fun. I've just been enjoying my experience."

After two months of playoff

basketball, Leonard doesn't have a lot of time left to be a fun guy—free agency gets underway at 6 p.m. Eastern on June 30.

"I'm going to take the right time," he said. "You don't need too many days to figure it out. We'll see what happens. Once that time comes, then we'll all lay the pros and cons out."

Visibly bothered by soreness during stretches of the Eastern Conference Finals against Milwaukee, Leonard declined to say how much pain he endured en route to winning his second career title.

"We're always battling through things," he said. "You know, knee pains, ankles, fingers. Everybody was just grinding it out."

Injured for all but nine games in his final season with San Antonio, Leonard played 60 regular-season games for Toronto and 24 more in the postseason, upping his minutes once April arrived.

While winning the Larry O'Brien Trophy was an obvious success, Leonard said he has enjoyed all aspects of his season north of the border, even the varied Canadian weather.

"It was a good experience, experiencing Mother Nature, all four seasons," he said. "Man, it was a great experience. Everybody off the court was great. The fans, just meeting people in Canada. It's been fun."

Fans chanted "Stay! Stay! Stay!" when Toronto Mayor John Tory presented Leonard with the key.

If reports on Tuesday are accurate, Kyrie Irving's days as a member of the Boston Celtics are numbered.

According to Shams Charania of The Athletic, Irving is expected to leave the Celtics and sign with the Brooklyn Nets when free agency starts on June 30.

This comes on the heels of a Boston Globe report on Monday that suggested Irving had shut down communication with the Celtics.

Instead, it appears that Irving is making it clear where he wants to go — and that's not Boston. Marc Stein of The New York Times also reported that the Nets believe they are primed to land Irving.

Tuesday was a rough day for the Celtics, with big man Al Horford declining a \$30.1 million player option for next season and likely headed else-

## Irving leaning toward signing with Nets

where as well.

This has come as a shock for Celtics fans, who went from having one of the East's best rosters to the sudden possibility of losing two of their most pivotal players in less than 24 hours.

The Celtics took a gamble when trading for Irving a few years ago, banking on the odds that he would like Boston enough to sign long-term. It appears that is going to be unlikely.

According to Stein, Nets' guard Spencer Dinwiddie has been a strong voice in recruiting Irving to Brooklyn, and Irving's decision to sign with Jay-Z's Roc Nation are indications that he is leaning toward moving the Nets.

Irving would be a huge

acquisition for the Nets, who surprised many last season by making the playoffs with a young, unproven squad. Add a star like Irving and they could make some noise in the East.

But who knows? The NBA is wild, and Irving is unpredictable. There's still 12 more days until free agency even begins.

### Horford, Barnes to be unrestricted free agent

A person familiar with the decision tells The Associated Press that Boston Celtics center Al Horford will decline his player option for next season and become an unrestricted free agent.

The person spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity Tuesday because the deci-

sion has not been announced. ESPN was first to report Horford's decision.

A five-time All-Star, the 33-year-old Horford joins point guard Kyrie Irving, who also won't exercise his option to remain in Boston for the final year of his contract. Horford signed a four-year, \$113 million deal in 2016.

Among the preseason favorites in the Eastern Conference before last season, the Celtics finished the regular season 49-33. They were eliminated 4-1 in the conference semifinals by the Milwaukee Bucks.

Horford was one of Boston's steadiest players throughout, averaging 13.9 points and nine rebounds in the postseason.

Harrison Barnes, who was

traded to the Sacramento Kings at the trade deadline, has decided to decline his \$25.1 million option to remain with the Kings next season, according to multiple outlets. Instead, Barnes, 27, will enter free agency once again.

Barnes played a key role on the 2015-16 Golden State Warriors team that won the NBA title. With the Warriors landing Kevin Durant in free agency, Barnes agreed to a \$94 million deal with the Dallas Mavericks in 2016.

Barnes played two full seasons in Dallas, averaging 18.9 points per game in 2017 and 17.7 points in 2018 before being traded to Sacramento at the deadline. Per ESPN, the Kings hoped to make Barnes a piece of their core moving

forward alongside promising young players like De'Aaron Fox, Buddy Hield and Marvin Bagley III.

It still could happen. Barnes is seeking a long-term commitment and "remains open" to exploring a new agreement with the Kings, ESPN is reporting. The Sacramento Bee suggested that a four-year deal "in the range of \$18 million to \$20 million" per year would be beneficial to both sides.

If a new deal with the Kings does not come to fruition, the 6-foot-8 Barnes should have plenty of suitors on the open market. Between the Mavericks and Kings, Barnes averaged 16.4 points per game while hitting 39.5 percent of his shots from 3-point range. In his 28 games in Sacramento, Barnes averaged 14.3 points and 5.5 rebounds while hitting 40.8 percent from long distance.



# Mets recover, dominate East-leading Braves



**ATLANTA**  
(AP)—Jacob deGrom took

a shutout into the ninth inning, Pete Alonso homered to highlight the first four-hit game of his young career, and the New York Mets routed the first-place Atlanta Braves 10-2 on Tuesday night.

Bouncing back from an ugly 12-3 loss in the series opener, the Mets pounded Braves starter Julio Teheran for six runs over four innings and cruised to a victory that eased some of the tension from a disappointing season.

DeGrom (4-6) dominated, allowing just five hits, struck out 10 and helped himself at the plate, leading off the sixth with a double and coming around to score.

Freddie Freeman and Josh Donaldson hit back-to-back homers off deGrom in the ninth, ending a bid for the second shutout and fourth complete game of his career. Robert Gsellman came on for the beleaguered Mets bullpen to strike out the final two Atlanta hitters.

Michael Conforto added a long homer in the eighth, and Jeff McNeil went deep in the ninth to finish off the 15-hit barrage.

Conforto and Todd Frazier both had two RBIs. McNeil added three hits, and every Mets starter had at least one.

Teheran (5-5) lost for the first time since April 30.

## Yankees 6, Rays 3

In New York, Cameron Maybin homered again with his roster spot in doubt, Edwin Encarnación went deep for his first hit with the Yankees, as they beat Tampa Bay to extend its AL East lead to 2 ½ games.

New York won its fourth straight and has taken 9 of 12 against the second-place Rays dating to last season.

Gary Sanchez had two RBIs and J.A. Happ (7-3) pitched two-run ball over five innings. Giancarlo Stanton returned from the injured list to play right field and reached into the seats in foul territory for a key out in the second.

The Rays lost back-to-back road games for just the second time this season.

Stanton was 0 for 4 with two strikeouts in his first big league action since March 31.

## Athletics 16, Orioles 2

In Oakland, Khris Davis, Robbie Grossman and Stephen Piscotty homered in a 10-run sixth inning, and the Athletics hit six home runs overall in a rout of Baltimore.

Ramón Laureano, Chad Pinder and Beau Taylor also homered as the A's set a season-high for home runs. It's the first time that Oakland has



had six home runs in a game since June 17, 2008.

Brett Anderson (7-4) allowed one earned run and four hits in seven innings in beating the Orioles for the second time this season.

Laureano finished with four hits and made a terrific running catch before crashing into the center field wall. Matt Olson added two hits and scored twice.

Oakland hadn't scored 10 or more runs in an inning at the Coliseum since July 5, 1996.

Three of Oakland's home runs came off Baltimore starter Gabriel Ynoa (0-4). Ynoa allowed seven hits and a career-high six runs in 5 1/3 innings.

## Reds 4, Astros 3

In Cincinnati, Jesse Winker and Derek Dietrich homered off Justin Verlander in the first inning and the Reds beat Houston to clinch its first series win in nearly a month.

The Reds won a series for the first time since May 24-26, when they took two of three from the Cubs. The Astros hadn't dropped a series since April 29-May 2.

Winker connected on the fourth pitch from Verlander (9-3). Joey Votto doubled and Dietrich's first homer since May 28 made it 3-0. Kyle Farmer added a homer in the

seventh off.

Verlander went seven innings and struck out eight.

Anthony DeSclafani (4-3) pitched into the sixth inning and gave up six hits. Michael Lorenzen retired the side in order in the ninth for his second straight save and fourth overall.

## Tigers 5, Pirates 4

In Pittsburgh, Nicholas Castellanos trotted home when a potential double play in the eighth turned into an RBI fielder's choice due to some indecisiveness by Pirates second baseman Adam Frazier.

The Tigers loaded the bases off Kyle Crick (2-3) with one out when Brandon Dixon hit a grounder that rolled under Crick's glove right to Frazier. Instead of flipping to shortstop Kevin Newman in hopes of turning an inning-ending double play, Frazier tried to tag Detroit's Christin Stewart between first and second. Stewart backed off to avoid the tag, breaking up the play and forcing for Frazier to settle for one out instead of two.

Buck Farmer (4-4) earned the win. Shane Greene earned his American League-leading 21st save. Miguel Cabrera had two hits as Detroit beat the Pirates for just the second time in their last 10 meetings.

Bell hit his 20th home run for Pittsburgh. Jung Ho Kang hit an RBI triple—his first three-base hit since 2015—and Colin Moran added to Pittsburgh's major-league leading pinch-hit total on an RBI single in the seventh.

## Angels 3, Blue Jays 1

In Toronto, Tyler Skaggs pitched into the eighth inning, Kole Calhoun and Brian Goodwin hit solo homers and Los Angeles remained unbeaten in five games against the Blue Jays this season.

Skaggs (6-6) went a season-best 7 1/3 innings. He allowed a run and three hits, walked none and struck out six. Ty Buttrey got two outs in the eighth, and Hansel Robles finished for his 11th save in 13 opportunities.

Luis Rengifo had two hits for the Angels, who have won 17 of 23 games in Toronto.

Lourdes Gurriel Jr. homered for the Blue Jays, who have lost a season-worst six straight at home.

Both homers came off right-hander Marcus Stroman (4-9), who allowed two runs and four hits in seven innings. Stroman has lost three of his past four decisions.

## White Sox 3, Cubs 1

In Chicago, Eloy Jiménez hit

a tiebreaking two-run homer in the ninth inning in his first game against his first major league organization, helping the White Sox beat the Cubs.

James McCann hit a leadoff single before Jiménez drove a 1-0 pitch from Pedro Strop (1-3) over the wall in left for his 12th homer.

Evan Marshall (3-0) got two outs for the win and Alex Colomé worked the ninth for his 15th save in 15 chances. Four White Sox relievers combined for four scoreless innings after Iván Nova turned in one of his best starts of the season.

The slumping Cubs kicked off a 10-game homestand with their fourth loss in their last five games. Kyle Schwarber connected for his 16th homer and Cole Hamels pitched seven sparkling innings, becoming the 10th left-hander with 2,500 career strikeouts.

## Marlins 6, Cardinals 0

In St. Louis, rookie Jordan Yamamoto matched his first career start by pitching seven scoreless innings against the Cardinals, and Miami earned the shutout.

Yamamoto (2-0) allowed two hits, struck out seven and walked two. He became the first pitcher since Pittsburgh's Nick Maddox in 1907 to beat the Cardinals twice in a seven-

day span when the first game was his debut. Relievers Tayron Guerrero and Sergio Romo completed the two-hitter.

Brian Anderson and Starlin Castro homered for the Marlins.

Jack Flaherty (4-4) pitched seven innings, allowing three runs on four hits while striking out eight, and had St. Louis' first hit off Yamamoto.

## Indians 10, Rangers 3

In Arlington, Texas, rookie Zach Plesac allowed only two hits pitching into the eighth inning and Cleveland had four home runs, including three in a row for the first time in nearly 15 years, to overwhelm the Rangers.

After Jake Bauers led off the Indians' seventh with a 389-foot shot to right-center, Roberto Perez and Tyler Naquin followed with homers that measured more than 400 feet. Those long balls came in a span of five pitches off reliever Drew Smyly. The last time Cleveland had hit back-to-back-to-back homers was at Seattle on July 16, 2004.

Plesac (2-2) struck out six and walked five.

Texas got two of its five overall hits in the ninth, including Willie Calhoun's two-run homer. Rangers starter Adrian Sampson (5-4) allowed five runs (three earned) in three innings.

Jose Ramirez hit a three-run homer for Cleveland.

## Rockies 8, Diamondbacks 1

In Phoenix, Nolan Arenado homered and drove in three, Antonio Senzatela pitched one-run ball into the seventh inning and Colorado beat Arizona.

Charlie Blackmon had three hits, and the Rockies (39-35) took over second place in the NL West, a game up on the Diamondbacks, with their sixth straight win against Arizona.

Senzatela (6-5) equaled his longest outing of the season with 6 2/3 innings, allowing seven hits with five strikeouts and four walks.

The Rockies took a 2-0 lead on Arenado's high drive into the left field seats off Arizona's Merrill Kelly (7-7) with two out in the first. It scored Blackmon, who led off the game with a double down the right field line.

Blackmon has reached base in 28 consecutive games, the longest active streak in the National League. He was named NL Player of the Week on Monday after getting 21 hits last week.



# Newcomer Boyd lifts USMNT past Guyana

**ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—**Newcomer Tyler Boyd scored two goals to guide the United States past overmatched Guyana 4-0 to start the CONCACAF Gold Cup on Tuesday night, getting the Americans back on track in their first competitive game in 20 months.

Boyd, a 24-year-old attacker, made his U.S. debut in an ugly 3-0 loss to Venezuela on June 9 after a FIFA-approved switch of affiliation from New Zealand.

"Just a dream come true," Boyd said. "It's been years and years of work to get to this moment."

Paul Arriola had a goal and an assist, and Weston McKennie had two assists before leaving with what appeared to be a left hamstring injury. Gyasi Zardes also scored for the Americans, who were on the attack for most of the game while generating a steady stream of prime scoring chances against a Guyana team making its Gold Cup debut.

Even a decisive victory like this wasn't going to provide much insight into any progress being made under new coach Gregg Berhalter, given Guyana's No. 177 ranking. Goalkeeper Zack Steffen made one save, in the 69th minute. With fan angst at a fever pitch and a young squad trying to find its way with a new, flashier style of play, though, there was plenty to be gained from, simply, winning.

Up next for the Americans in Group D on Saturday night in Cleveland is Trinidad and



**AP**  
Guyana's Matthew Briggs (20) and United States' Tyler Boyd race for the ball during the first half of a CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer match Tuesday, June 18, 2019, in St. Paul, Minn.

lineups since he took over six months ago, scored in the 28th minute from 7 yards. Boyd had an opportunity to follow it after goalkeeper Akel Clarke pushed a shot to his right, but he wound up too hard and sent the ball sailing over the net and into the seats.

Boyd's 52nd minute-goal marked the 1,000th in program history, in match No. 700. The sign that this was going to be a good night for the Americans came in the 56th minute when Arriola's shot was headed by defender Terence Vancooten and went straight to the face of Zardes. The ball ricocheted into the net, and Zardes grimaced as his teammates celebrated.

Minnesota became the 27th state—Washington, D.C., has hosted too—with a U.S. men's national team match played within its borders. This one was at sparkling Allianz Field, the just-opened home of Major League Soccer club Minnesota United. With a vintage summer sunset falling beneath the curved canopy of European-style stadium at kickoff, the colored LED lights encircling the building after nightfall, and a raucous red, white and blue capacity crowd of 19,418 into the action the whole time, the atmosphere matched the performance.

Tobago, the plucky islanders who beat them on Oct. 10, 2017, in the World Cup qualifier that kept them home last summer from Russia and caused a reexamination of the entire program. Panama beat Trinidad and Tobago 2-0 in the first match on Tuesday.

The U.S. has 33 wins, one loss and four draws in group

stage of Gold Cup, losing only to Panama in 2011.

Qualifying failure allowed interim coach Dave Sarachan and later Berhalter to experiment often. They used 71 different players over the 18 exhibitions. Berhalter's first competitive starting lineup featured midfielder Michael Bradley, who assisted on Boyd's first

goal in the 51st minute, back in the captaincy. Zardes was at forward instead of veteran Jozy Altidore, who's working his way back from leg injuries.

Injuries kept likely starters Tyler Adams, John Brooks and DeAndre Yedlin off the Gold Cup roster, but McKennie and fellow 20-year-old Pulisic were on the field at kick-

off with Bradley for the first time. Pulisic, the Pennsylvania star who hopes to return the U.S. to international relevance, made his presence felt around the net despite not scoring. He was subbed out in the 62nd minute for Cristian Roldan.

Arriola, the only player who has been in all of Berhalter's

## Federer off to winning start in bid for 10th Halle title

**HALLE, Germany (AP)—**Roger Federer began his bid for a record-extending 10th Halle Open title with a 7-6 (1), 6-3 win over Australia's John Millman on Tuesday, with defending champion Borna Coric also advancing.

Federer, who lost to Coric in last year's final, hit nine aces and saved the only break point he faced to beat Millman in 1 hour, 17 minutes.

Federer next faces Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who defeated French compatriot Benoit Paire 6-4, 7-5 at the grass-court tournament.

Federer already has the best grass-court record in the Open era with 18 titles, and the 37-year-old can set a personal record with his 10th at a single event in Halle.

Federer and Tsonga played only once before on grass, with the French player coming from two sets down to win at Wimbledon in 2011.

The fourth-seeded Coric de-

feated Spain's Jaime Munar 7-6 (2), 6-3 and will next face Portuguese qualifier Joao Sousa in the second round.

Italy's Matteo Berrettini, who won the Stuttgart Open on Sunday, defeated Nikoloz Basilashvili 6-4, 6-4 for a second-round meeting with compatriot Andreas Seppi.

Seppi beat Mats Moraing 6-4 (7), 6-4.

Other winners Tuesday included Roberto Bautista Agut, David Goffin, Richard Gasquet, Sergiy Stakhovsky and Jan-Lennard Struff.

Meanwhile, a day after saying she was "not really that comfortable" playing on grass, top-ranked Naomi Osaka needed three sets to get past her first-round opponent at the Birmingham Classic on Tuesday.

Osaka lost the second set to Maria Sakkari of Greece before recovering to win 6-1, 4-6, 6-3, for only her 11th tour-level victory on grass.

"I was kind of screaming on the inside during that entire match," Osaka said in her on-court interview. "I got lucky a little bit, I guess."

Osaka has yet to make it past the third round at Wimbledon, which starts on July 1.

"I felt better than the two practice days," Osaka said. "And I feel every day that I play on grass of course I'm going to learn how to play better, but for now I'm just really happy I was able to win that match."

Osaka needs to reach the final in Birmingham to guarantee holding on to top spot in the rankings heading into Wimbledon.

"During my entire clay season, it kind of mattered and I think it showed because I was kind of stressed out the entire time," she said. "So, now, I'm just having fun. I'm enjoying it. And I know that if I play well, then I'll be No. 1."

Osaka will next face Yulia Putintseva, who defeated Britain's Harriet Dart 6-1, 6-4.

## NFL teams up with NCAA for next round of safety improvements



**INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—**The NFL's top medical experts are asking

college football physicians and trainers to help make the game safer.

They want the NCAA to pitch in, too.

Dr. Allen Sills and Jeff Miller, the NFL's executive vice president for health and safety initiatives, spent Monday and Tuesday in Indianapolis sharing data about their findings on the prevention and treatment of injuries. It's the most formal presentation league executives have had with college officials, and Sills and Miller hope this presentation leads to a broader conversation that includes discussions about lower-body injuries.

"We're able to show them what we're working on and what we're finding and how we're applying that knowledge into the day-to-day care of professional athletes," Sills

told The Associated Press during a break. "I think we hope this is the start of even more regular interaction between the two organizations because we share the exact same goals, which is improving the health and safety of players."

The two-day meeting included participants from the NFL's health and safety team, the NCAA's Sport Science Institute, and medical staffs from schools in each of the power five conferences. It comes amid a rapidly evolving landscape of injuries in football. Sills is the league's chief medical officer.

Over the past decade, Miller estimates the NFL made between 50 and 60 rules changes to enhance player safety. Members of the league's competition committee now routinely contact the medical team before considering making additional changes.

Plus, as Sills and Miller

have collected more data they found NFL coaches and players increasingly receptive to their recommendations and conclusions.

Players, they say, are asking more questions about equipment, such as helmets. Coaches and assistant coaches, they add, have shown greater interest in how they can reduce the number of injuries at practices.

"They (coaches) care about these people," Miller said. "They care about the performance of them and they care about their long-term viability in the league, and those are all real good reasons to be open minded about how we practice, train and treat athletes as they go through an NFL training season or regular season."

But the key may be how far these changing attitudes trickle down to the college, high school and even youth-league levels, and the NFL wants to do more to get the message out.



# Marta sets all-time World Cup scoring record

**DEAUVILLE, France** (AP)— Move over, Miroslav. It's Marta's record now.

The Brazilian scored her 17th career World Cup goal Tuesday night, passing Germany's Miroslav Klose for the record by any player, male or female. The goal, on a penalty kick in the 74th minute, gave Brazil a 1-0 victory over Italy in the Group C game in Valenciennes.

"I am very honored, happy to write the history in a sport that for some people is still seen as a men's sport," Marta, considered by many to be the best female player ever, said after the game.

"We are breaking records, showing how much women's football has been developing. It's a story not only for Marta, but also for all women out there."

A little bit of payback for Brazil, too.

Not only did Klose surpass another Brazilian, Ronaldo, when he scored his 16th goal,



Italy's Elena Linari, left, jumps for the ball with Brazil's Marta during the Women's World Cup Group C soccer match at the Stade du Hainaut in Valenciennes, France, Tuesday, June 18, 2019.

one shy of the World Cup record and the most by an Australian, in a victory over Jamaica that advanced the Matildas into the knockout rounds

Kerr tied American Alex Morgan for the tournament lead with five goals.

"I actually wanted more after that, being my selfish self,"



Kerr said.

Australia advanced to the round of 16 for the fourth consecutive tournament following three straight quarterfinal eliminations. The Matildas finished second in Group C and will face Norway in Nice on Saturday on the first day of the round of 16.

Kerr scored on a header off Emily Gielnik's cross in the 11th minute, doubled the lead with another header in the 42nd and completed the hat trick in the 69th. She scored again in the 83rd minute to give her 36 goals in 80 international appearances.

## US wants win vs Sweden, even if it would mean tougher path

**LE HAVRE, France** (AP)— Victory is the goal for the United States in its group stage finale against Sweden, even though a loss might give the Americans an easier path through the knockout rounds of the Women's World Cup.

"I think it's in our team's DNA to want to win and do really well," defender Abby Dahlkemper said Tuesday, two days ahead of the Group F finale.

The defending champion U.S. and Sweden both enter with two wins and have clinched berths in the round of 16. The top-ranked Americans have the better goal difference and with a win or draw would play Spain in the Round of 16 and could face No. 4 France in a quarterfinal at Paris' Parc des Princes and No. 3 England in the semifinals.

The team that finishes second in the group meets the Netherlands or Canada in the round of 16, then could have a quarterfinal against No. 2 Germany, which would not have the backing of a large home crowd the way host nation France does every match.

U.S. coach Jill Ellis says she can't convince her players not to tackle in practice, so asking them to hold back against Sweden is a losing cause. Ellis thinks it is dangerous to try to tailor results based on possible matchups.

"We want to win every game, so I think that's where we're at and that's what we want to do," Ellis said. "I think if you get too much into manipulating or planning or overthinking something, I just don't think that that's a good message."

## CNMI

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Galvez to represent the islands to the quadrennial meet.

Since this is the CNMI's first time to compete in the Pacific Games, Guerrero and company are seeded No. 7 in the badminton tournament. New Caledonia is seeded No. 2, followed by Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, and Kiribati.

After its 9am (Samoa time) match against Tahiti, the CNMI will take on Samoa at 1pm and will close out Day 1 with a game against Fiji at pm. Then on July 9, the Commonwealth bets will take on New Caledonia first at 10am before battling Kiribati at 3pm.

## REAL

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impossible for the team to keep up with Real Deal after staying afloat at the end of the first canto, as the former was behind by only 3, 15-18.

Real Deal went on to hit its target anew in the second half to eliminate Batang and remain undefeated in the tournament. Real Deal swept all its seven games in the preliminary round and is now in the semifinals of Group B along with Loving Hands and Lakay.

## Brabu 83, Saipan Vegas 75

Meanwhile, Brabu completed the semis cast in Group A after ousting Saipan Vegas.

Douglas Schmidt, Vince Teregeyo, and Freddie Pelisamen scored in double figures to bring Brabu to the next round. Schmidt had a team-high 22 points, while Teregeyo and Pelisamen contributed 18 and 12, respectively. James Camacho had 8 for Brabu,

Tonga will be the CNMI's last assignment as the two teams collide on July 10 at 10am.

The mixed team event will be played in a round-robin format with the Top 3 squads making it to the podium. Participating countries will play in men's and women's singles and doubles, and mixed doubles.

The badminton competition will run until July 13 with the seven countries also playing in separate men's and women's singles and doubles and mixed doubles events.

Besides badminton, the CNMI will also be fielding athletes/teams in athletics, beach volleyball, canoe (V1), tennis, golf, and swimming.

making 6 of them in the final quarter, as his baskets helped keep the team's safe distance against Saipan Vegas.

Brabu joins Alberto's, DC, and Marianas Variety in the Final Four.

## First Game

**Real Deal 96**—Santos 18, P. Basa 18, Laniyo 19, Castro 16, Onopwy 9, Bondoc 8, Diaz 6, E. Basa 4, They 4, Saipy 2.

**Batang 50**—Ege 15, Hernandez 11, Dacumos 4, Alviz 3, R. Tibayan 3, Daluyen 2, D. Tibayan 2, Lymanlan 2, De Jesus 2, Acosta 2, Rosario 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 18-15, 55-29, 74-41, 90-50.

## Second Game

**Brabu 83**—Schmidt 22, V. Teregeyo 19, Pelisamen 12, S. Teregeyo 9, Camacho 8, Santos 7, Igitol 2, Tagabuel 2.

**Saipan Vegas 75**—Guiab 22, Manalo 17, Itaas 8, Barbo 7, Gamboa 6, Galarse 5, San-guyo 3, Odicta 2, Mungcal 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 19-17, 41-31, 62-55, 83-75.

he did it in Germany's semi-final rout of the host country at the 2014 World Cup. Germany thrashed Brazil 7-1 in that game, with Klose's 23rd-minute goal one of five scored in the first half.

It was Brazil's worst-ever World Cup loss, and its first loss at home in 39 years.

"I'm delighted for her," Italy coach Milena Bertolini said. "She's emblematic of the women's game on a global basis. I think when a lot of people have watched Marta over the last few years they've really changed their mind with regards to whether women can indeed play football or not."

Despite Marta's dazzling skills, and now her scoring

record, she has never won a major international title. Brazil lost to Germany in the title game of the 2007 World Cup, and was silver medalists—losing to the Americans—at both the 2004 and 2008 Olympics.

Brazil has qualified for the knockout rounds, but as the third-place team in Group C, it will face either host France or Germany.

"We can't choose it," Marta said. "We have cleared a goal of ours: qualifying. Now it's a matter to get ready and to try to go further."

And maybe add a few more goals to her record total.

## Australia 4, Jamaica 1

Sam Kerr scored four goals,

## TRACK

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qualifier for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

As for the CNMI, Acosta, Pangelinan, Quitugua, Roligat, Santos, and They will be debuting in the Oceania meet and will be competing in the U18 division. Sappa will also join the tournament for the first time and is entered in the open division, while Sapong is the Commonwealth's lone bet in the women's category, making another appearance in the regional event.

NMA has encouraged the eight CNMI athletes to post personal records if they could not make it pass the preliminaries.

Sappa and Sapong will race in the men's and women's 100m and 200m runs, while Quitugua and Pangelinan are also joining the two sprint events in the younger age group. Roligat is running in the 100m race and competing in the long jump, while Santos will do the middle distance



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The members of the CNMI Athletics Team that will compete in the 2019 Oceania Athletics Championships in Australia pose for a photo after completing their training session at the Oleai Sports Complex last Tuesday.

races—800m and 1,500m runs. Acosta and They are both entered in the long jump event and the former is also partici-

pating in the high jump contest.

From Guam, the CNMI delegation will head to the Philippines Saturday morning for

their connecting flight to Brisbane. They are then expected to arrive in Townsville early Sunday morning.





Report: Kawhi  
focused on Clippers,  
not Lakers

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

Marta sets all-  
time World Cup  
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## CNMI to debut against Tahiti



SAIPAN TRIBUNE  
Nate Guerrero, seen here receiving a shot during a local tournament at the TSL Sports Complex, and his six other teammates will have a tough opening assignment in the 2019 Pacific Games in Samoa next month as they take on No. 1 seed Tahiti.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

The debuting CNMI National Badminton Team will be put to a test early as it takes on No. 1 seed Tahiti in the first day of competition in the 2019 Pacific Games.

The pairings for the mixed team event were released yesterday with the Commonwealth crew, besides its match over the region's top team, also scheduled to play two more games in the opening day of the badminton competition at the new multipurpose gymnasium at the Faleata Sports Complex in Samoa on July 8. Northern Marianas Badminton Association has selected Nate Guerrero, siblings Jordan and Janelle Pangilinan, brothers Ezekiel and Daniel Macario, Nicole Malasarte, and Andreau



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## Track stars warmup for Oceania meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



The CNMI Team that will compete in the 2019 Oceania Athletics Championships will have a stopover in Guam for a tune-up meet.

Northern Marianas Athletics secretary Robin Spong said Leani Acosta, Jamie Pangelinan, Traven Quitugua, Gabriel Sappa, Oldie Joe Roligat, Theyvie They, Zarinae Spong and Tinian's Tyler Santos will leave Saipan tomorrow morning and will join a summer meet in Guam in the evening at the John F. Kennedy High School track and field facility. Ron Olopai will coach the team.

"It's great that we will be able to warmup for the Oceania Athletics Championships since our athletes did not have competition here, except for the All Schools tournament," said Olopai.

"Our athletes have been training hard and doing well in practice. They are in high spirits and will do their very

best in the competition in Australia," he added.

The Oceania meet will run from June 25 to 28 at the Townsville Sports Reserve in Queensland. The four-day event will feature 22 member-countries, including powerhouse New Zealand and Australia.

"I heard Australia is bringing in their best athletes in the Oceania tournament. The competition will be tough, but it will be a great experience for our athletes, as they challenge these high-level competitors," Olopai said.

The host will be represented by Zane Branco, Riley Day, Tori, Nick Hough, Jin Su Jung, Jake Doran, and Alex Hartman. Branco competed in the U20 World Championships and set a meet record in the 200m run during the Australian Junior Athletics Championships last March. The other members of the team are either world championships participants or have won national titles in their respective events.

The other countries are also expecting to field their top athletes in Australia, as the competition will serve as a

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## Real Deal pounces on Batang in playoff game

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



Real Deal trounced Batang, 96-50, as the playoff round of the 2019 Civic Center Basketball League continued last Saturday in Susupe.

After the Group B match was halted by rain with Real Deal ahead by only 6, 15-9, with less than two minutes left in the first

quarter, the Preston Basa-led squad pulled away in the second canto en route to the easy victory.

Basa and Coby Santos knocked in three triples each in the pivotal second canto to help Real Deal open a 55-29 half-time advantage. Basa, who was scoreless in the first quarter, logged 11 in the second, while Santos had the same output after his three shots from beyond the arc. Justin Laniyo also drilled a triple, while Franko Bondoc and Jeff Castro combined for 10 points to complete Real Deal's dominance in the second quarter.

No Batang player scored more than two field goals in the second period, making it

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Real Deal's Eric Basa pulls up for a short jumper in front of Batang defenders during their playoff game in the Civic Center caging last Saturday in Susupe.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Oldie Joe Roligat leaps during a training session at the Oleai Sports Complex last Monday.